

Ambulance trust loses three-year contract to transport people to hospital as privatisation of non-emergency services continues

Minicab firm wins £1m patient deal

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

THE London Ambulance Service has lost one of its biggest contracts to a minicab company which has moved into the patient transport market.

M&L Cars will from April 1 be responsible for 130,000 trips a year to and from hospitals in the City and east London. The deal is worth at least £1 million annually.

The coup by the company, based in Hackney, east London, reflects a fast-growing trend of privatisation of non-emergency ambulance services, now regarded separately to 999 teams.

Ambulance staff unions had hoped the Labour government would halt the trend. But ministers have done nothing to head off the private companies, which are not bound to national pay rates.

M&L has recently taken two other contracts off the LAS, serving the Royal Brompton hospital in west London and the Tower Hamlets Healthcare trust in east London, so that the ambulance trust has lost work totalling £1.8 million.

The latest blow is the loss of a three-year contract with the Royal Hospitals trust, involving servicing the prestigious Royal London and Bart's hospitals.

Don Page, director of the LAS central division, said the decision made redundant 20 ambulances and put at risk 12 jobs. Whether transfer-of-undertakings rules would apply, protecting the staff and their terms, was in dispute with M&L.

The contract would be a big challenge for M&L, which had hitherto operated only "a very small fleet of cars and a few ambulances".

Although the Government was supposedly reviewing competitive tendering in the NHS, Mr Page said, "the trend in patient transport services is that competition has increased in the past 12 months rather than decreased".

One of the LAS staff affected by the Royal Hospitals contract switch said he and his colleagues — who had helped at major incidents like the Broadgate and Docklands bombings — had been "thrown on the scrapheap".

UN chief to meet Saddam as more bombers go to Gulf

Richard Norton-Taylor

KOFI Annan, the UN secretary-general, is expected to fly to Baghdad this week for a head-to-head meeting with Saddam Hussein in a last-ditch attempt to avert military strikes against Iraq by the US and Britain.

The two governments stepped up their campaign to prepare public opinion for military action. As Washington yesterday sent more stealth bombers to the Gulf, Sandy Berger, President Clinton's national security adviser, warned that the US would not flinch from repeated attacks on Iraq to eliminate President Saddam's chemical and biological warfare capability once and for all.

"The one constant he [Saddam Hussein] must understand is that the international community is not gonna go away — and what's important is — the United States is not gonna go away," he said.

Mr Annan will today meet representatives of all five permanent members of the UN Security Council, where a majority are opposed to an attack on Iraq. Russia, China and France are opposed to the use of force — a position they repeated yesterday — although British officials insist the five are united in the aim to rid Iraq of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in compliance with past Security Council resolutions.

In advance of tomorrow's Commons debate on Iraq, George Robertson, the De-

fence Secretary, strove to counter widespread scepticism — shared by Norman Schwarzkopf and Sir Peter de la Billiere — that military force would not achieve the Government's objectives.

"What we will do will be proportionate, and designed to reduce his military capability and especially his capability to deploy weapons of mass destruction," Mr Robertson said on BBC TV's Breakfast With Frost programme.

He condemned as "disgraceful and irresponsible" claims that British defence chiefs were not fully behind the US and British strategy.

But there seems little room for manoeuvre on substance. British officials again insisted yesterday that any deal must include continued "unfettered access" to locations with suspected Iraqi chemical and biological weapons.

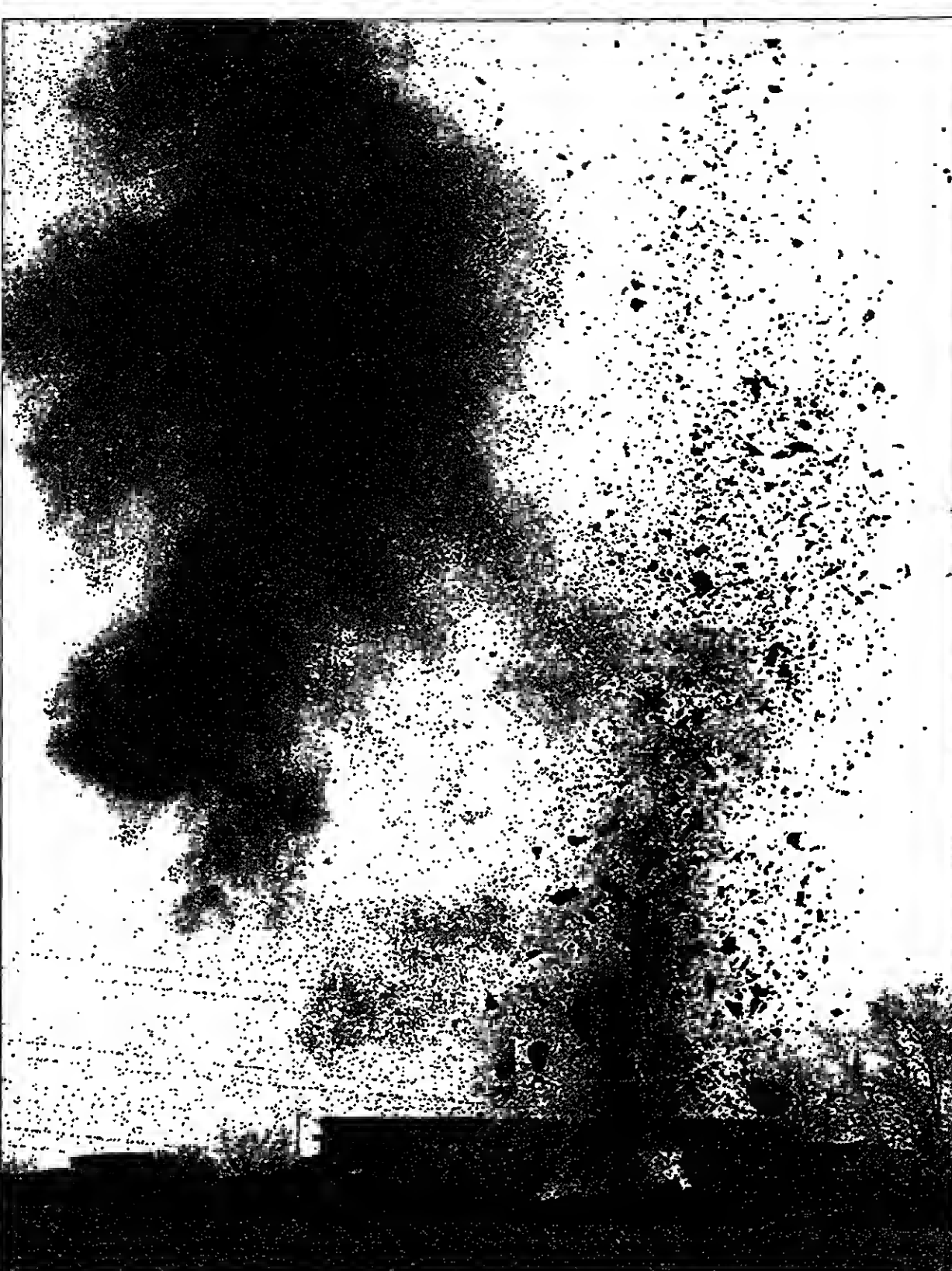
There must be a written agreement which would not undermine that integrity and authority of UNSCOM, the Foreign Office said yesterday.

A team of UN technicians, led by Staffan de Mistura, a Swede, and including two Austrian surveyors, arrived in Baghdad yesterday to map the eight disputed sites which, Iraq says, are situated in the governorates of Baghdad, Salahuddin, Basra and Nineveh and cover 26 square miles.

Iraq's vice-president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, told Russia's special envoy to Iraq, Viktor Posukalov, that Iraq was "sincere and serious about finding a diplomatic solution to the crisis manufactured by America".

Decision time, page 6

Wartime sequel



Big bang... The German bomb is exploded at Chippenham yesterday, 55 years after it was dropped. PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS ISON

Only casualties are broken windows as Luftwaffe bomb is detonated

WITH a blast that rocked buildings a mile away and sent a huge fountain of earth shooting hundreds of feet into the air, a 1,000lb second world war bomb was finally detonated yesterday after lying undetected for more than 55 years beneath a Wiltshire field, writes Geoffrey Gibbs.

More than 1,000 people were flown to the site and away from their homes on two estates on the outskirts of Chippenham after the bomb was discovered during work to build a new secondary school.

Police decided to evacuate homes and declare an 800-metre exclusion zone around the site on Friday after the 5ft-long device, dropped by the Luftwaffe during a raid in 1942, was found to be unstable.

Army bomb disposal experts had hoped to be able to defuse the bomb but were forced to abandon their attempts when it began sinking deeper into the mud of a 30ft crater.

Hundreds of sightseers yesterday gathered in a safety zone overlooking the field in which the bomb disposal team was working. Many were awestruck by the force of the explosion.

Police said damage from the explosion had been restricted to a small number of window panes.

The huge bomb was uncovered thanks to the sharp memory of a local farmer, Tony Crew, who was six years old when German planes dropped several devices in nearby fields.

Recalling that some had not exploded, he raised the alarm during the period of public consultation for the building of the new school last year and excavations of the site began last week.

Yesterday he watched the explosion on television at a friend's house.

"Watching it made me think what it would have done if it had gone off at the time. I am very relieved it is all over — it has been a very trying weekend."

Cheerful chaos prevails as Saint Julian keeps rabbiting on

Review

Adam Sweeting

Julian Cope

Astoria, London

TALK IS cheap, but you still got a catering-size portion for the admission fee. Julian Cope could rabbit on until the cows come home.

So could his support act, Murray Leachman Young, Parlophone's former million-

pound poet. Murray may be remembered, if he's lucky, as the Titanic of contemporary verse, but he fitted in quite well with the air of relaxed anarchy that prevails at a Cope event. With his T-shirt and shoulder-length hair, he looked as if he had just been onstage with Free at the Isle of Wight in 1970, but he talks like a louche aristocrat who has inherited not a fortune, but a pile of ancestral debts. His poems are delivered against backing tracks that throb like an old engine about to explode. The crowd seemed to take a shine to him.

Cope needs no introduction, but he delivered quite a long one nevertheless. Having spent a couple of years locked away writing a book about runes, ley-lines and what have you, Saint Julian is delighted to be out in public again, with a willing audience to gush at.

For the occasion, he appeared in a bizarre multi-coloured smock and black tights, with a great lump of hair falling down the right-hand side of his face. His ease with a crowd, and his gift for surreal anecdotes, could easily make him the first New Age chat-show host. He kept

reminding himself to "get on with it", and managed to cram in a heap of favourite songs. Autogeddon Blues raised cheers, and Cope was happy to comply with shouted requests for Soul Desert.

He picked up a turquoise 12-string guitar for a new song. Everything Blows Me Away, and added his own wah-wah vocals to the pinging bluesy riff of Paranormal in the West Country.

Musically it was hit and miss, with Cope skillfully nailing Robert Mitchum and Las Vegas Basement, but floundering on the high notes

of The Great Dominions (played on a mellotron). But the tone of whimsical chaos was skilfully maintained, as Cope cheerfully allowed jokes to come onstage and kiss him passionately, tossed out fragments of un-poetry such as Poet is Priest, or plugged anti-Gulf war demonstrations. "Those really hard policemen with sharks' eyes? Kiss them, they love that," he urged.

Eventually time ran out and they had to drag him offstage, though not before he had played the self-descriptive Passionate Friend. Rave on!

Search for mother after baby found beside river

Amelia Gentleman

POLICE search was launched yesterday for the mother of a baby found abandoned on the veranda of a riverside yacht club.

Joey Isaacs, aged 21 months, was found naked, semi-conscious and suffering from hypothermia at 7.30pm on Saturday. His mother's clothes, jewellery and watch were found later by the riverbank, alongside the baby's clothes and pushchair.

Police are concerned that Jackie Isaacs, aged 31, might have drowned when she went swimming in the River Thames outside Thurrock Yacht Club in Essex.

Chief Inspector Terry Sheern, leading the inquiry, said Mrs Isaacs had said to club staff earlier that it was

perfect weather for swimming, but had been advised against it because of the strong current. She was later seen paddling in the river with her baby.

Detectives added that suicide had not been ruled out. However, staff at the club said Mrs Isaacs had seemed cheerful earlier in the afternoon.

Police helicopters yesterday scanned the area around the yacht club, aided by the Thames Navigation Authority. A team of more than 30 officers and sniffer dogs searched the surrounding streets and moorings.

Mr Sheern told a news conference: "We are growing more concerned by the hour as to Mrs Isaacs' whereabouts."

"We have not ruled out the possibility that she might have drowned while going for a swim in the river — but nobody actually saw her swim-

ming. We have also not ruled out the possibility of suicide or the possibility that for some reason she took off and is in fact safe and well somewhere."

Mrs Isaacs, a mother of three who lives locally, had gone to the yacht club at about 3pm. Her two other children, both aged under 10, were staying with their father for the weekend.

The baby was taken to Basildon hospital where doctors diagnosed hypothermia, caused by lying naked in the cold for around two hours. Police said he was making a good recovery last night, with his father by his bedside.

Mrs Isaacs is described as about 5ft 9in tall with shoulder-length brown permed curly hair. She was last seen wearing blue leggings, a ribbed tee-shirt and she may have had a grey waist-length jacket.

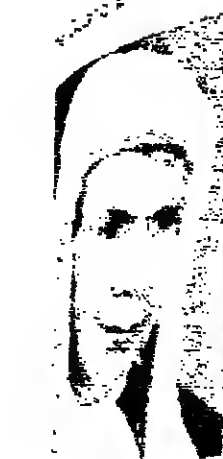
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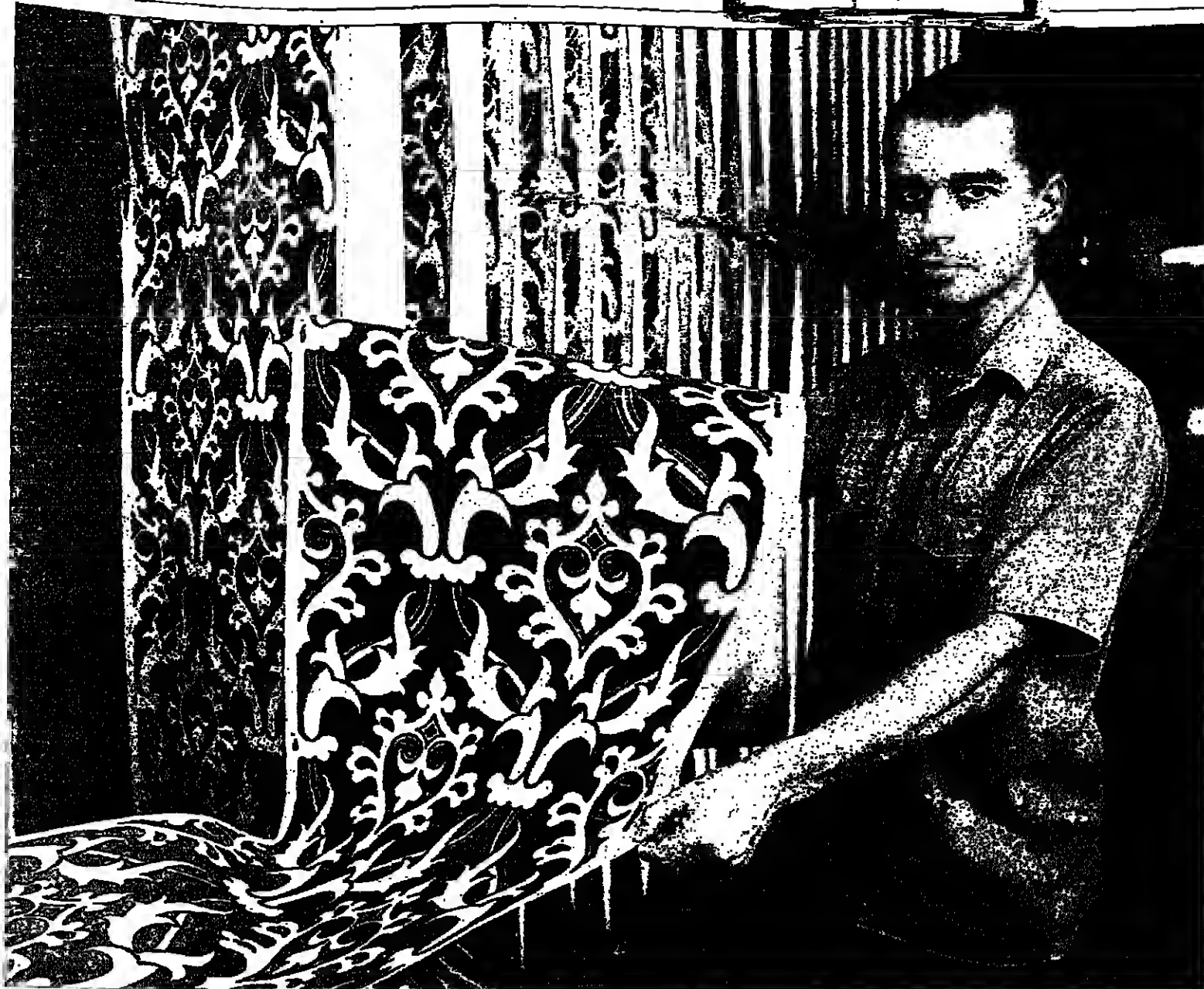
Lightning think-tank app

Acacia Drive is not where the view down the fence has been erected shut. And beyond the to the neighbourhood



Lord Irvine: secrecy clause in contract

Apartments to cost £650,000 but no details are given – because Lord Chancellor fears he could be IRA target



Back to basics... A replica of the Pugin-style wallpaper which is to be hung in the Lord Chancellor's residence

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES WISEMAN

Irvine's top-secret makeover

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

LORD Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, has put a secrecy clause into a £650,000 refurbishment contract for his official apartment in the House of Lords because he feared that he could be a victim of an IRA mortar attack.

A cabinet minister told the Guardian: "The only explanation for the use of the Official Secrets Act in a government contract is on security grounds. Lord Irvine's residence faces directly on to the River Thames and it is theoretically possible to launch an attack from across the river or from the Victoria Embankment gardens."

"Details of the contract could reveal the measurements of the windows and it would be possible to identify the apartment," he said.

The minister's comments follow the disclosure yesterday that Lord Irvine's bill for restoring his apartment is nearly double the £333,784 released to Parliament last November, and will now cost the taxpayer £650,000.

The contract includes a

clause binding contractors to the Official Secrets Act, 1989, which carries a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment or a large fine.

The disclosure of the cost of the refurbishment led to demands for an inquiry by John Redwood, the Conservative trade and industry spokesman, who said yesterday he would be tabling questions in Parliament on the costs.

"The level of extravagant spending is something that must be investigated. We must know whether it was good value for money, and I shall be asking the appropriate parliamentary authorities to look into this."

Approval of the project appears to have been given by a small sub-committee in the House of Lords, which covers expenditure and does not publish details of its decisions.

The refurbishment includes restoring the apartment to its former 19th century glory at the time it was designed by Augustus Pugin, Lord Irvine, an art historian, is believed to have given advice on the correct designs to reflect the period.

The costs include a £145,000 bill for curtains, carpets and upholstery. The drapes will

be made of silk and wool to the elaborate designs of the last century. They have been ordered from an Essex company at a cost of £200 per yard.

Some £80,000 has been spent on elaborate wallpaper for the apartment, while orders have been placed for two beds, costing £8,000 each, and a dining table to seat 10, costing a further £25,000. Existing furniture will go into store.

Officials in the House of Lords have been ordered to scour the stores to find three chaises longues, two wardrobes, chairs and a sideboard, all in the Pugin style, to furnish the apartment.

The spending will take a sizeable sum out of the £3.46 million being spent by the House of Lords this year on major projects. The figures are published annually in the Cabinet Office's accounts but no detailed breakdown is given of expenditure.

Lord Irvine is promising to open the apartment to the public when he is not in residence – a pledge which has caused some scepticism in Whitehall as it seems to contradict the need for secrecy on the refurbishment contract.

High quality it may be, but design puts branding of Britain back by a century, writes **Clare Longrigg**

AUGUSTUS Pugin's Gothic fleur-de-lis sprays and roses and crowns, redolent of stuffy 19th-century opulence, are not exactly what Tony Blair had in mind when launching the design concept Cool Britannia. Lord Irvine's foray into interior design has put the clock back on the branding of Britain by at least a century.

The Prime Minister has already shown an interest in the contemporary art and music scene. Perhaps he should have invited Lord Irvine to one of his cocktail parties and introduced him to a few designers.

Lord Irvine could have chosen Paxton Locher, whose pure white interiors and minimalist use of silver and glass have put Britain back on the design map.

Or Ben Kelly, designer of the Science Museum and the Design Council, a

genius at manipulating space.

Or Will White, whose acid colours and purple pillars would have made an interesting comment on the Gothic exterior.

Sarah Wigglesworth, whose house is made of straw bales and sandbags with a grass roof, could have offered tourists and visiting statesmen a showcase on avant-garde materials.

But the Lord Chancellor has chosen to stick with the original design, with fold-

ing drapes and secret plotting, and emblems of yesterday's England.

His choice was defended yesterday by the design consultant Nicolette le Pelley, who said the silks made by the Humphries Weaving Company would never go out of fashion.

Min Hogg, editor of the design bible, World of Interiors, said that the Humphries Weaving Company was regarded "very, very, very highly".

The apartments are being restored in the style of Augustus Pugin, architect of the Houses of Parliament, and are faithful to his lavish Gothic interiors and bold, bright colours. It was essential to stay true to the original, said Ms Hogg.

Powell to lie in abbey but not in state, critics told

John Ezard

THE body of Enoch Powell will spend tomorrow night, its last night above the earth, lying in a chapel at Westminster Abbey, it was confirmed amid outrage yesterday.

But one word makes all the difference. The politician who delivered the "rivers of blood" speech will not, as his critics thought, be "lying in state" in ceremonial endorsement of his views on race.

Instead Powell will be "lying-in" or "lying-in": a privilege regularly granted to faithful servants of the abbey. This honour is ancient – but apparently unknown to some of Britain's most senior churchmen.

"It happens all the time, regardless of whether the person was a cleaner or a canon emeritus," Church of England spokesman Father William Beaver said yesterday.

"It is a practice which certainly antedates the Reformation [in the 16th century]. I suspect it happens in many other cathedrals."

Powell earned it with a decade's service as a warden at St Margaret's, Westminster, the abbey's sister church. He and his wife were also regular faces at the abbey's 8am Sunday communion.

Fr Beaver said he was "bemused" by reaction from newspapers and clergy to the news.

The Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Rev Wilfred Wood, told BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme that for Powell's body to lie in state would give him a standing some would feel was undeserved.

"The Abbey is a peculiar shrine of a nation's greatness. I see this as a deliberate attempt to accord a man in death a status some of us don't think he merits."

Enoch Powell gave a certificate of respectability to white racist views which otherwise decent people were ashamed to acknowledge.

Lord Cogan, former Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "Anything that would exacerbate the memory of that speech is to be regretted."

Dr Tom Butler, Bishop of Leicester, said the decision to have the body resting in the

abbey overnight could upset ethnic minorities.

These statements led former political associates, including the Conservative MPs Patrick Cormack and Ann Winterton, to defend Powell. Sir Patrick accused the clergy of showing "singular lack of Christian charity".

The Association of Black Clergy said: "Each person stands before God and deserves the same level of love."

Fr Beaver said: "I can only assume the bishops and Dr Cogan were under the impression Mr Powell was lying in state when they spoke."

"As an inner-city clergyman for 15 years, I feel the great value of his Birmingham speech was that it galvanised millions into saying it was unacceptable behaviour."

"The lying-in at the abbey is a very solemn part of Christian leave-taking. Whether or not his family asked for it, they would have been offered it."

Last night a Westminster Abbey spokesman said: "It is certainly not the first time this year that this has been done for a member of the abbey community. It happened five or six times last year."

Powell, a stickler for verbal exactitude and correct procedure, would have enjoyed the row.

On Wednesday he will be buried alongside Royal Warwickshire Regiment colleagues at St Mary's collegiate church, Warwick, after funeral services there and at St Margaret's.



Rt Rev Wilfred Wood: Powell does not deserve the honour

Record heat brings out crowds

Warmest February weekend boosts business at resorts

Amelia Gentleman

BITAIN enjoyed the hottest February weekend since records began, with a summer bank holiday atmosphere in coastal resorts.

With temperatures in London higher than in Corfu yesterday, and parts of the country warmer than Portugal, tourists flocked to beaches to bask in the sun.

Mick Small, owner of the Pier Hotel, Great Yarmouth, said the unprecedented temperatures had boosted trade.

"People have been walking about in T-shirts on the beach – it has been fantastic weather. I've been living here for 55 years and I've never seen a February weekend like it. The sea has been unbelievably calm," he said.

The receptionist at the Royal Gatehouse Hotel in Tenby reported a similar phenomenon.

"There's been a summer bank holiday atmosphere all weekend. Children have been paddling in the sea and lots of people have been out on the beach having fun."

The Met Office recorded

Friday's temperatures as the highest ever for a February day in Britain, with 19.6C in Barbourne, Worcestershire. Saturday managed 19.1C, with the heat easing off to 17C yesterday. Most of western Europe has been experiencing similarly warm weather, caused by a slow flow of warm air from North Africa.

A Met Office spokesman said that for three days in a row temperatures had exceeded the maximum recorded for equivalent February days since consolidated records began in 1875.

Martin Rowley, a Met Office national forecaster, said that these unusual temperatures could be tied up with global warming.

"It is always tempting to

link unusual weather patterns to global warming – but it's important to remember that similar exceptionally warm patches of weather did occur at the end of the last century well before it became an issue."

"Some scientists do predict that the climate in the south of Britain will become more like the climate of the south of France, and the succession of warm Februaries we have had over the past few years may suggest that we are already moving in that direction."

But Britain has seen the last of the sun for the time being, with forecasters predicting lower temperatures and chilly north-westerly winds.

Rightwing think-tank applauds Blair on welfare-to-work

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

IN A sign of how far the world has turned since Tony Blair took over as Labour leader, the Adam Smith Institute, the free-market think-tank, finds itself standing four square with the Government on its flagship policy.

In a study published today, the institute – which was the

architect of some of the most radical initiatives of the Thatcher era – gives a ringing endorsement to Labour's welfare-to-work programme, breathlessly describing it as "the most successful public policy initiative of this century".

The study, Making Welfare Work, by Dr Merrill Matthews and Kristin A Becker, examines the success of similar schemes in the United States.

Using official figures to doc-

ument their case, they conclude that welfare-to-work programmes reduced welfare caseloads between 1993 and 1997 by 73 per cent in Wyoming, 62 per cent in Idaho and 58 per cent in Wisconsin.

The great majority of those leaving the dole queue found jobs in the private sector.

These gains in employment took place against the backdrop of a booming economy, suggesting that many would have found work anyway. But

the study points out that the welfare-to-work scheme in Wisconsin also achieved impressive results during a slowdown between 1990 and 1993.

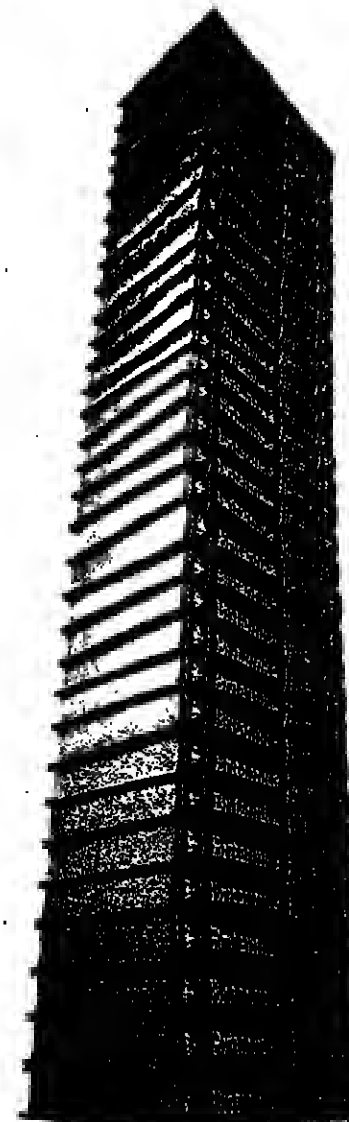
The president of the Adam Smith Institute, Madsen Pirie, said: "This will be music to New Labour's ears. It shows that the central plank of their welfare state reform is a sound one which has been proved successful in practice."



Acacia Drive is not what it was. At the top end of the road, where the view down the valley is longest, an enormous fence has been erected. There are gates, but they are locked shut. And beyond them stands an even less friendly addition to the neighbourhood: Acacia Drive has a guard hut.

Andy Beckett on the green belt front line

G2 cover story



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4 BRITAIN

US court case reveals cigarette makers have known of cancer link for 40 years, and 20 years ago began planning to counter social backlash

Tobacco firms' secrets smoked out

Sarah Bosley

THE tobacco industry was told by scientists working for nearly 40 years ago that cigarettes could cause cancer, and 20 years ago was considering alternative ways to make money out of people's addiction to nicotine if smoking became socially unacceptable.

These damning revelations are contained in documents produced in court in Minnesota during the current litigation against US tobacco manufacturers in which health-care providers are suing for the costs of treating people whose disease and sometimes death was smoking-related.

In what is thought to be the earliest warning from within the industry, British scientists told manufacturers in 1958 of the link between smoking and lung cancer.

In a document put together after a month-long tour of medical research establishments in the US, H R Bentley, D G I Felton and W W Reid, who worked for British American Tobacco in Britain, stated that almost every scientist they met believed the two were connected.

"With one exception, the individuals whom we met believed that smoking causes lung cancer."

By the end of the 1970s, the tobacco companies had worked out that nicotine was the addictive, but not the most harmful, element in cigarettes. What they needed, said staff at their establishment in Southampton, was a socially acceptable product containing nicotine, which would keep the customers hooked.

"We have to satisfy the individual who is either about to give up or has done so... We are searching explicitly for a socially acceptable addictive product involving: □ A pattern of repeat consumption; □ A product which is likely to involve repeated handling; □ The essential constituent is most likely to be nicotine or a 'direct substitute' for it; □ The product must be non-ignitable (to eliminate inhalation of combustion products and passive smoking)."

In fact, some of the BAT brains had, in March 1976, produced a paper titled The product in the early 80s. It said: "In the past 20 years there have been several forecasts of the demise of the cigarette."

It states that there had been suggestions they could be supplanted by nicotine chewing gum or marijuana. But, generally, the smoker had been remarkably resistant to such ideas.

Chewing tobacco, snuff and nicotine-containing chewing gum were all "potential rivals if cigarette smoking becomes socially undesirable".

Iran makes new threat against Rushdie

David Hirst in Tehran and Stuart Miller

SUPPORTERS of Salman Rushdie yesterday rejected an Iranian claim that he is considering moving to the United States, as new threats from Tehran dashed hopes that its line on the author had softened.

Ayatollah Hassan Sanai, head of the religious foundation which last year raised its reward for killing the writer to \$2.5 million (about £1.5 million), said it might be raised again, "depending on the date on which the sentence is carried out".

Ha suggested that if Mr Rushdie, as reported in Tehran, went to the US, the move "would strengthen the motive of zealous Muslims to carry out the sentence, because Muslims hate the US".

Mr Rushdie should know that "the sky is the same colour wherever he goes".

The author's supporters in Britain said yesterday it was highly unlikely he was considering such a move.

They think it was just part of a litany of abuse from Tehran which allows them to attack the Grand Satans of America and the Little Rushdies," said Carmel Bedford, of the International Rushdie Committee.

With Iran's election of a Marxist president, Ahmad Khatami, hopes had been growing that Iran would soften its line.

But the uncompromising statements commemorating Ayatollah Khomeini's decree in February 1989 show that, if anything, it has hardened. Mr Khatami has been silent on the issue since he took office.

Well-informed Iranians say that his embarrassment is acute, but that he is in no position to challenge his hard-line rivals, headed by the spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

More significant than the routine intrusiveness of the hardliners is the apparently tougher line adopted by the Foreign Ministry, a stronghold of moderation, which yesterday said that since the fatwa "represented the view of a high-ranking religious dignitary (Ayatollah Khomeini) it was 'irrevocable'".

The ministry also criticised the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, for his "failure to understand the significance of fatwas and Islamic edicts".

In the past, the ministry would re-affirm the validity of the fatwa, but always added an assurance that the Iranian government would itself do nothing to carry it out.

Seeking to corral Mr Khatami, Ayatollah Sanai claimed that the new president had in no way retreated from his previous stand of support for the fatwa.

"He will surely deal with the issue more firmly than before. Nothing else could be expected from a descendant of God's Prophet" — which Mr Khatami is.

Ayatollah Naeq Nuri, the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, drew a contrast between Mr Rushdie and Roger Garaudy, the French intellectual on trial for casting doubt on the authenticity of the Holocaust.

Ayatollah Nuri has denounced "the contradictory attitude" of "self-styled defenders of human rights" who condemn Mr Garaudy for attacking Israel, but uphold Mr Rushdie for his blasphemy against Islam.

Despite this, Rushdie campaigners remain optimistic. On Saturday, the author met Tony Blair and later this week will meet Mr Cook. Previously, his only contact with the Government had been through the Foreign Office minister, Derek Fatchett.

missed the announcement of the mother and child sculpture as speculation, and claimed no decision had been reached.

"There has been a debate about the body, whether it should be male or female. There will definitely be a large-scale statue, bigger than the Statue of Liberty, which will illustrate issues around health, medicine and the body."

The child is part of the plans still under discussion by the creative review group, which, according to the spokesman, "is testing the intellectual coherence of what is being proposed".

The group might have a struggle with the intellectual coherence of using an hermaphrodite to demonstrate how the human body works.

The body will be a silver coloured surface to avoid questions of skin colour. The facial features will indicate no particular race.

The decision will be revealed in a presentation of the dome's contents on February 24.

Dome's mother and child to outstrip Statue of Liberty

Clare Longridge

THE Millennium Dome, whose contents are shrouded in mystery, may come a piece of art most reviled of modern figures: the single mother.

Plans for the exhibition are said to centre around a sculpture of a naked woman and child, bigger than the Statue of Liberty.

The fibreglass woman will be sitting down as her child plays with his toys. According to a report in a Sunday newspaper, the toys could present an opening for corporate sponsorship.

The woman's body will be 170ft high and 320ft long, containing walk-in exhibitions on health and the body.

The original idea was to have a robot with no sex organs, but the design company BP-1CM is said to have made an impassioned plea for a female Britannia to rival the US Statue of Liberty and the French Marianne.

A spokesman for the New Millennium Experience dismissed the announcement of the mother and child sculpture as speculation, and claimed no decision had been reached.

"There has been a debate about the body, whether it should be male or female. There will definitely be a large-scale statue, bigger than the Statue of Liberty, which will illustrate issues around health, medicine and the body."

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At odds with media promises last September of a more responsible attitude, the Times last week serialised a book claiming the princess might have survived the car crash in Paris if she had been taken to hospital quicker.

That was overshadowed when the Mirror ran interviews with Mohammed Al Fayed, whose son, Dodi, also died in the crash, in which he said he was 99 per cent certain it was no accident.

"A great deal of this is inappropriate," a Downing Street spokesman said yesterday. "The Prime Minister is concerned with the effect on the princess's family, particularly her sons."

"We seem to be faced with a growing industry which stems from films and books filled with speculation, assumption and conspiracy theories, through to the paraphernalia of the souvenir market."

He denied suggestions that the intervention was a coded attack on Mr Al Fayed.

John Major, who is acting as guardian of the interests of princes William and Harry, also voiced his concern over "shoddy publicity".

But there is a recognition that little can be done to prevent books and films.

Yesterday, a spokeswoman for Live TV shrugged off criticism of The People's Princess: A Tribute, a film it is making about the relationship between Diana and Dodi. "The title of the film speaks for itself. It is a tribute and should be taken as such."

There is more concern over the Diana souvenir industry, estimated to be worth \$100 million worldwide. Downing Street has complained, for example, of an ashtray on sale in London. There is also an Internet game which allows players to drive a Mercedes through a tunnel while pursued by paparazzi on motorbikes.

Michael Fabricant, a Tory member of the Commons culture, media and sport select committee, said: "If there is such a game, it's not just tacky as the Prime Minister said, it's beyond the bounds of good taste."

Lawyers for the memorial fund are finalising a copyrighting arrangement to pursue manufacturers of unauthorised memorabilia. Official souvenirs will be identified by a trademark.

Leader comment, page 8

Leader comment, page 8

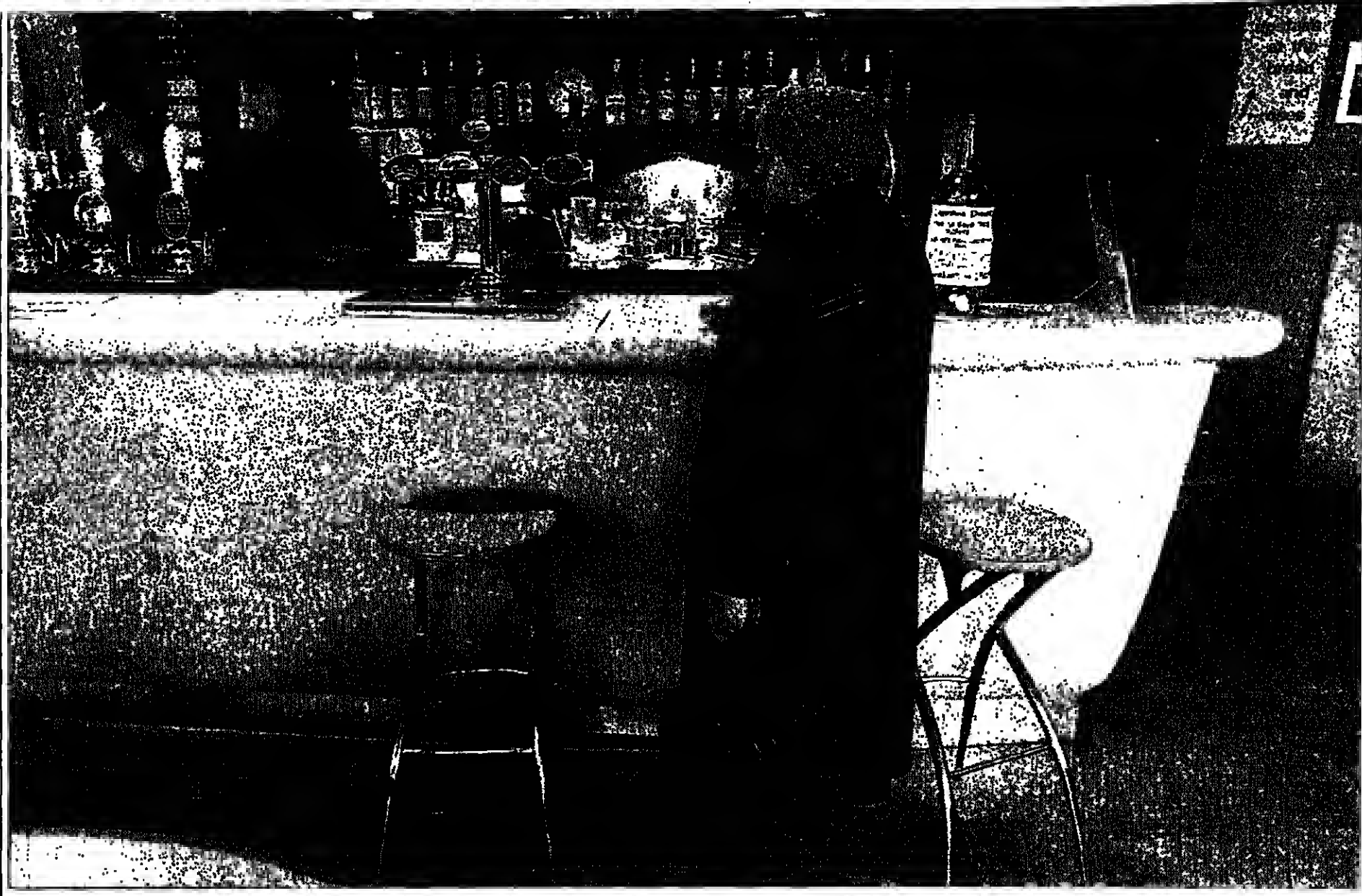
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Award winner... a customer at the Bread and Roses in Clapham, south London, owned by the Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Union Council

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GUDWIN

Drinking class finds ciabatta bread a bit hard to swallow

Maew Kennedy Heritage Correspondent

THE days of beer and sandwiches for the brothers are back. Or rather a nice glass of chardonnay, and homogenous with almond and olive tapenade served on ciabatta bread, at the award-winning pub owned by the Workers' Beer Company, which in turn is owned by the Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Union Council.

The Bread and Roses in Clapham, south London, has scooped an award in today's Camera/English Heritage pub design competition results.

The manager, Jody Gasser, said sadly: "We get rather a lot of media types actually. We don't get as many working men as we'd like. It's rather a disappointment to us."

The judges described it as "a pub with attitude which is also relaxed and friendly. No plagiarism, no fakes, no boring repetition, just good confident modern design."

Ms Gasser, a Labour Party activist ("old Labour, I think") puts their collarless-shirted clientele down to the price of the pint. Woker's Ale is £1.85, cheaper than Islington but considerably dearer than the next pub down the road.

"If you pay decent wages you've got to be dearer — we pay £5.15 an hour."

Bread and Roses was a 150-year-old corner bar called the Bowyer Arms, which acquired a spectacular reputation in its latter days. Regularly the bar staff spot old customers coming back. They see the eyes widen as they take in the wine list on the blackboard — "ask for our champagne and pudding wine list" — the gilt-framed photograph of Nelson Mandela, and the huge banner above the bar quoting the 1912 striking women textile workers: "Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes; hearts starve as well as bodies, give us bread but give us roses!"

Move to halt trade in Diana tat

Stuart Miller

PRESSURE intensified yesterday for the Diana, Princess of Wales, memorabilia industry to exercise restraint, after Tony Blair condemned the "cynical exploitation of her memory."

After a week of sensational claims, the Prime Minister led criticism of the "Diana death industry".

Downing Street, Buckingham Palace and trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Fund have become concerned both by lurid speculation on the circumstances of her death and exploitation of her memory by souvenir manufacturers.

At odds with media promises last September of a more responsible attitude, the Times last week serialised a book claiming the princess might have survived the car crash in Paris if she had been taken to hospital quicker.

That was overshadowed when the Mirror ran interviews with Mohammed Al Fayed, whose son, Dodi, also died in the crash, in which he said he was 99 per cent certain it was no accident.

"A great deal of this is inappropriate," a Downing Street spokesman said yesterday. "The Prime Minister is concerned with the effect on the princess's family, particularly her sons."

"We seem to be faced with a growing industry which stems from films and books filled with speculation, assumption and conspiracy theories, through to the para-

phernalia of the souvenir market."

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The lighthouse at Whitford Point near Llanelli which is undergoing renovation. The work will be finished by the year 2000. PHOTOGRAPH: PHILLIP REES



Top pay at crisis opera house

Dan Orlister
Arts Correspondent

SALARY levels at the crisis-torn Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, were far higher than at similar arts institutions in the financial year leading up to its closure for redevelopment.

Thirty-three people received salaries of between £50,000 and £100,000, according to its own financial documents, while at the South Bank Centre there were just three people in the same salary band.

Three people at the ROH were earning more than £100,000. In the previous financial year there were four on that salary scale.

In the same year the ROH was building up a deficit that reached £12 million before a rescue package was put together to stave off insolvency. It aims to reduce the deficit to £5 million over the next 18 months.

The salary levels are higher than any of the nation's other big arts institutions. With an annual subsidy of £15 million for its two companies, the ROH receives a higher subsidy from the Arts Council than any other arts institution. Additionally, it has received a lottery grant of £7.8 million towards its redevelopment.

At the neighbouring English National Opera, which could be merged with the ROH under the review being conducted by Sir Richard Eyre, nobody earns over £100,000, and just four earn more than £50,000.

At the Royal National Theatre, where Sir Richard was until recently director, his successor Trevor Nunn is the only person to receive more than £100,000. Five earn between £50,000 and £100,000.

At the British Film Institute, an organisation which has also had recent personnel

and financial troubles, there are no staff earning more than £100,000. Seven, including the director, earn more than £50,000.

After the ROH, the Royal Shakespeare Company has the most bloated wage bill, but even there just one person earns more than £100,000, and nine earn more than £50,000.

Although the identities of the ROH's top earners are not divulged, it is likely that the chief executive, Mary Allen, is one of them. She left her £63,000 a year job as secretary general of the Arts Council last year to join the ROH. The payments for 1996/97 include more than £100,000 to Jeremy Issacs, the former general director, who left in September 1996.

An ROH spokeswoman said it had to pay top salaries to attract top musical figures. Also, the ROH had two com-

panies, the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet.

But it is the cluster of salaries between £50,000 and £80,000 that will worry observers concerned with instituting sound management techniques. It will also be a cause for concern to Sir Colin Southgate, the new chairman.

Since closure, and the associated loss of 320 jobs through redundancies, the homeless ROH has reduced its top-heavy salary levels. There are now only seven people being paid between £50,000 and £100,000. Both Sir Colin and Sir Richard, who has voiced surprise that pay is so much higher than at the National Theatre, will be keen to ensure that it does not return to former levels when the house reopens next year.

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School warning on 'force guide'

John Carvel
Education Editor

TEACHERS were told last night to ignore guidelines allowing them to use "reasonable force" to restrain violent or disobedient pupils.

Ministers were preparing to issue legal advice that staff could respond to classroom crises with appropriate physical intervention. This could include "holding, pushing, pulling, leading a pupil by the arm, or shepherding a pupil away by placing a hand in the centre of his or her back".

But Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said the official advice could lead his members to take unnecessary risks.

"The danger is that teachers will feel encouraged by this guidance to intervene in dangerous situations. That is when they are at their greatest risk of assault." Instead of intervening, teachers should summon help.

The guidelines — due for publication today — were prepared by a team at the Department for Education and Employment to combat a misperception that the Children Act outlawed all forms of physical contact with pupils.

Ministers thought they could help teachers by distinguishing between improper contact and legitimate measures to restrain children who disrupt lessons, risk injuring others or run in corridors in a way that might cause an accident.

The leaked draft said: "It is unlawful for a teacher to physically punish a pupil, regardless of the seriousness

of the pupil's misbehaviour, or the degree of provocation. Smacking, slapping, punching, or kicking, are not acceptable methods of restraint. Nor is any form of physical contact that is deliberately intended to cause pain or injury, or humiliate a pupil."

Neckholds, armlocks, tripping or pulling a pupil by the hair will be specifically outlawed and teachers will be told never to give the impression of losing their temper.

But reasonable force could be used to prevent pupils committing a criminal offence, causing injury, damaging property, persistently disrupting lessons, or causing a serious nuisance outside the classroom. This might include intervening physically to separate pupils, or block a child's path.

Mr de Gruchy said teachers were not facing serious legal risks when they took appropriate disciplinary measures. "There are some instances in which teachers have found themselves facing charges. But in most cases, if it gets to court, the teachers have won."

Under the new guidelines teachers might feel "encouraged to intervene in situations where it would be very foolish for them to do so. Too many teachers already have suffered injury in the course of doing their job. There will be a great many more if they feel freer to intervene as a result of this guidance."

"Our advice is to recognise the signs of trouble at an earlier stage, and call on whatever assistance may be needed from colleagues, or — if necessary — the police."

Senior government sources said the guidelines would help teachers to understand their legal rights.

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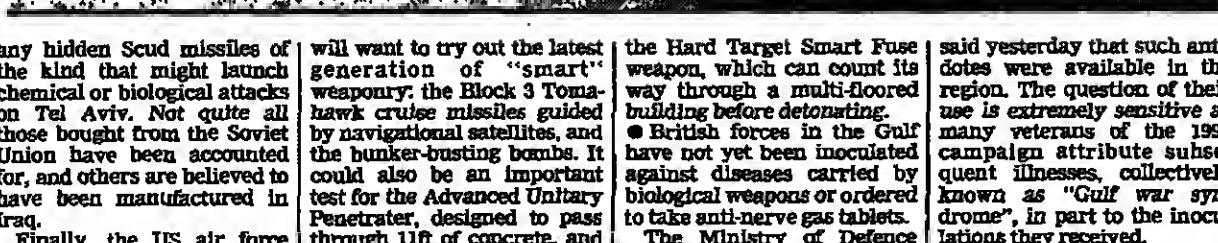
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Hunt for the hidden assets



David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent



said yesterday that such antidotes were available in the region. The question of their use is extremely sensitive as many veterans of the 1991 campaign attribute subsequent illnesses, collectively known as "Gulf war syndrome", in part to the inoculations they received.

Saddam ducks and dives to survive expected attack

Joanna Coles In New York

004-01 110 0-11111, 110 0-11111,



National Film Theatre, Southbank, London SE1

John Mulholland, Media Guardian Editor will be asking these questions and more to Adam Singer, Chairman, Flextech; Mark Thompson, Controller BBC2; A.A. Gill, TV Critic, Sunday Times and Mathew Horsman, Media Analyst, Henderson Crasthwaite. Questions from the floor welcome.

2000

White house officials had no comment on the report

The former associates — senior officials who worked with him. Arah cabinet

and where a meeting may take place.— *New York Times*

Clerides re-elected Cypriot president

THE former South African president F. W. de Klerk said he was divorcing his wife after the disclosure that he had been having an affair. Mr De Klerk, aged 61, who shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize with President Nelson Mandela for his role in ending apartheid, told South African newspapers that his 39-year marriage was over. Newspaper reports identified the other woman as Ethia Georgiades, wife of a family friend with whom Mr De Klerk and his wife Marilee shared frequent holidays in London and the Greek islands. — Reuters. Johannesburg.

A YEAR after he was toppled in a coup and fled into exile, Prince Norodom Ranariddh registered his FUNCINPEC party yesterday for the Cambodian elections scheduled to be held for July.

He arrived at the bottom of registration forms accepted by the interior minister, the prince's personal representative in Phnom Penh, Lu Laysreng, said.

Meanwhile a meeting of the Association of South-east Asian Nations in the Philippines declared support for a proposal that Cambodia should qualify for a "concurrent" election then pardon the ousted co-prime minister so that he could freely participate in the elections. — *AP, Phnom Penh.*

AT THE end of a two-week manhunt, federal investigators yesterday named a suspect wanted in connection with the bombing last month of an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, which killed one man and seriously injured a woman. The officers said they wanted to charge Eric Rudolph, a 31-year-old former soldier from North Carolina, with using an explosive device with intent to kill or maim. — *Emma Coles, New York.*

FRANCE was due to send 6 tonnes of burn medications to Cameroon as emergency aid last night after two tanker trains exploded at the weekend killing 120 people. Four doctors and two nurses were due to fly with the aid to the capital Yaoundé, where more than 150 people were critically burned when flames swept through a crowd. The injured were scooping up petrol spilling from the tanker trains which had collided hours earlier. Witnesses said the explosion was caused by a cigarette dropped by someone in the crowd. — Reuters. Paris.

THIRTY-FIVE people were killed in attacks by Muslim rebels at the weekend as the military launched an offensive against the rebels on the outskirts of Algiers, local officials and media said yesterday.

Said Medjo, quoting a statement by the security forces, said 11 civilians were killed at Sidi Amar in M'Sila province.

Earlier 17 people, including some members of a pro-government militia, had their throats slit and five were wounded in the Tamessema area in the south-west region of Saida, the security force statement said. Troops were said to have killed three rebels.

Other media reports said four civilians had their throats cut on Saturday night when they were caught at a roadblock in the Ain el Melha area in Medea province, and three civilians died at a roadblock between Medea and the neighbouring Ain Defla region. — *Reuters, Paris*

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, toured volcano-ravaged Montserrat at the weekend, flying over stretches of ash-coated landscape and the rubble of the island's abandoned capital.

Mr Cook, said by his aides to be the first foreign secretary to visit Montserrat, flew by helicopter over the island's southern end, where pyroclastic flows of super-heated gas, ash and rock have destroyed homes and businesses.

He rejected criticism that he was only spending six hours there. "It's a full day's trip. I added a day to my visit to the Caribbean."

Indonesian riots spread and worsen

John Aglenby
In Cirebon, West Java

The unrest, which began three weeks ago, has —

Chinese have exploited the masses and grown rich on presidential patronage.

"My family and I escaped death by a whisker," said a

Jakarta said yesterday that the crisis was likely to continue for months after Rus-

Lewinsky's lovesick e-mails

Joanna Cole in New York

The office correspondence, extracts of which are published in the latest edition of Newsweek, was subpoenaed

you think the likelihood of that happening is?"

A retired secret service officer, Lewis Fox, is expected to testify at the grand jury.

"My family and I escaped death by a whisker," said a

Jakarta said yesterday that the crisis was likely to continue for months after Rus-

Citizen Kohl

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French hunters bay for blood

Jon Henley in Paris

LED BY a pack of bay-hounds and a solitary, rather confused wild boar, 150,000 angry men marched through Paris this weekend to defend the ancient French pastime of massacring migrating birds. "This is a right citizens' fight for and won in the 1789 revolution. We are not about to surrender it to bureaucrats in Brussels who know nothing," declared Pierre Dallant, head of the National Union of Hunters' Federations, which organised the biggest demonstration Paris has seen for almost 10 years. Hunting horns blaring, the four-mile procession wound its way from the Eiffel Tower in western Paris to the Place d'Italie in the east, viscous in knickerbockers mingling with farmers in camouflage jackets. France's 1.5 million hunters are up in arms at a European Union directive to shorten the open season on migrating birds, an EU programme to boost protected wildlife areas, and French government plans to use EU laws to restrict their access to private land. An effigy of Dominique Voynet, the no-nonsense Green environment minister whom the hunting lobby has

declared a "non-protected species", hung from a gibbet. Placards read: "Dominique, get back to your housework and leave us alone". And "Voynet, you're screwed, the hunters are on the move". French governments have failed to implement the 1979 EU directive designed to protect migrating ducks, geese and other birds during breeding and while their young are too small to fly. It came into force, if partially, this year, halting the season a month early on January 31. The free-for-all, which turns swaths of rural France into no-go areas for rambblers will resume in September — two months later than usual. The march was officially apolitical, but deputies from hunting areas took part, as did representatives of the Hunting, Fishing, Nature and Tradition party, which hopes to win up to 15 per cent of the rural vote in next month's regional elections. Although surveys show 36 per cent of the French are in favour of hunting, and 60 per cent actively oppose it, the marchers were virulent. "It's time France realised that the environment belongs to those of us who live in it, not to people like her who sit in offices all day," said Marcel Rougeuse, a Toulouse mechanic.

Citizen Kohl comes to test London's euro-philia

The embattled chancellor believes he has allies in the City of London, writes Ian Traynor

CHANCELLOR Helmut Kohl of Germany never tires of saying that Britain will opt to join the single European currency because the financial clout of the City of London will demand it. "The City is heading for Europe and others will follow," he is fond of remarking. He will be able to test that conviction this week when he visits the City to receive an honorary citizenship. At a ceremony on Wednesday he will become the first German to receive the honour, joining 30 distinguished foreigners, including Nelson Mandela and former president Ronald Reagan. The British tabloid press has complained that Mr Kohl's policies threaten Britain's independence and sovereignty and could do more damage to the City than that inflicted by "the Luftwaffe in the war". But the City corporation has decided to pay tribute to his statesmanship and "remarkable" achievements in pushing through German unification and European integration. One honorary citizen is believed to have returned the award in protest.

The chancellor is in regular contact with his son Peter, who works at a bank in the City, and Mr Kohl's confidence in British financiers' enthusiasm for the euro is believed to derive from his son's insights. While Mr Kohl is being feted abroad, however, doubts are surfacing in Bonn whether he is the right man to lead the Christian Democrats in September's general election, in which he is due to seek a record fifth term as chancellor. And his enthusiasm for the single currency is colliding with an 11th hour campaign in Germany to derail the euro. In an interview published this morning Michael Glos, parliamentary leader of the Christian Social Union, Mr Kohl's Bavarian ally, hints cryptically that Mr Kohl might be more of an electoral liability than an asset. "I cannot imagine winning a race in which you change horses in the home straight," Mr Glos told Der Spiegel. "If the horses fail, we would have to make a last-minute effort to win the race... A big party can never be protected, however, from the foolishness of individuals." His comments were rebutted by Kohl allies, who stressed that the Christian Democrats were solidly behind the chancellor. But a clear majority of Germans remain unreceptive to Mr Kohl's euro propaganda. The latest opinion poll, released on Friday, under-

lined a 3-1 majority against the euro. It coincided with further calls to delay or cancel monetary union, and for a referendum on the issue. A survey in the Düsseldorf business daily Handelsblatt found Germans consistently hostile to, and fearful of, rejecting the mark for the euro.

While 68 per cent opposed the euro and 30 per cent favoured it, 60 per cent believed the euro would be less stable than the mark. Just over half believed there would be a political fudge in May when European Union leaders are to decide which countries qualify for the single currency.

After a petition last week from 155 German economists pleading for a delay in the euro's launch, the Christian Democratic premier of Saxony, Kurt Biedenkopf, called for a three-year postponement and Henning Voscherau, a former Hamburg mayor, called for a referendum.

The finance minister, Theo Waigel, says "there is no reason for stability fears", and the government insists the euro will promote growth. But Handelsblatt says: "Germans simply don't believe what Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Theo Waigel have been preaching since 1992."

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Diana's never ending story

The people cannot let her go

FEW people were alert to the significance of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales faster than Tony Blair. On hearing the news he reportedly told advisers to prepare for national grief on a scale none of them had seen before. His appearance before the cameras that morning, his recollection of the phrase "People's Princess," both captured and anticipated the mood of the nation in a way that marks out the best politicians. As a result, and beyond the plain fact that he is the Prime Minister, Mr Blair will always get a special hearing on matters Diana.

Over the weekend he used that clout to condemn the "tacky and inappropriate" trade in the dead princess that has stretched from books to films to newspaper serialisations. Even though Mr Blair has no official responsibilities for Diana's sons — his predecessor, John Major, is a guardian of their financial interests — he spoke out as their protector. Downing Street said it was the possible impact on the two boys that really troubled the PM.

Few can disagree. It is, indeed, cruel for William and Harry to hear claims that their mother might have lived, if only this or that circumstance had been different, or to read that she may have been the murdered victim of a team of shadowy conspirators. But Mr Blair cannot simply issue an edict, or even a request, and hope that such talk will disappear on his command. There are stronger forces at work, ones for which not even he can legislate.

First, the commercial trade in Dianabilia: the kitsch knick-knacks, the memorial plates, the boxed-sets and assorted merchandise. Mr Blair may not have mentioned this stuff explicitly, but his disdain for "commercial exploitation" signalled an agreement with those who have argued that the expanding Diana industry demeans the legacy of the lost princess. A legal defence is under construction, copyrighting the very image of Diana, so that only the licensed entrepreneur can put her mug on a mug, so to speak. But this approach is badly flawed. For one thing, it fails to see that humanity's most cherished icons have all been transformed into trinkets and junk witness the brisk trade in crucifix bric-a-brac in Bethlehem or the papal keyrings on sale in Rome. There is a whiff of snobbery in condemning a £5 souvenir while tolerating the classy acquisition of, say, Diana's dresses — bought for much more money but precisely the same purpose. Moreover, it is far from clear that Diana's image was purely private. Because she was the most famous woman in the world, the memory of her face is something we all share. It could no more be copyrighted than Einstein's haircut or Chaplin's walk (although lawyers have tried to put a price on both); it is part of the visual landscape of our century. In some ways, this attempt to make Diana's nose, her eyes and her smile a commercial product is just as "tacky and inappropriate" as the retail trade it seeks to outlaw.

In turning back the torrent of Diana stories — in books, films and newspaper partworks — Tony Blair is even more powerless. He is unlikely to go into serious battle against the papers which have served up the most recent serialisations: the Times and the Daily Mail are new friends whom he does not want to displease. But he should be mindful that the source of the greatest conspiracy theory uttered so far — the claim that Diana and Dodi were driven off the road by agents of British intelligence — was the father of one of the victims, Mohamed Al Fayed. People faced with the most dreadful news will go to extreme lengths to persuade themselves it is not true. The Americans who could never accept the assassination of President Kennedy built a conspiracy industry that flourishes to this day. Just as the enduring market for Diana confounds the sceptics who dismissed last year's September sadness as instant mass hysteria whipped up by the media, so the current conspiracy-theorising cannot be written off as a media creation. It is the expression of a sentiment that refuses to dissipate, nearly six months on: a grief-stricken cry of "say it ain't so". As Mr Blair knows well, such emotions cannot be waved aside so easily.

A world going hungry

Famine is weapon of mass destruction

"FOOD IS THE first thing," wrote Bertolt Brecht. "Morals follow on." So, he advised, better to make sure that those who are starving "get proper helpings when we do the carving." How to ensure adequate helpings around the world, while we carve generous portions for ourselves, remains as hard as ever in the 1990s — which happens to be, for anyone who remembers, the UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. In the small gap between the big headlines, brief items of news continue to reflect the misery of millions. The shorter the item, it sometimes seems, the more the millions. Emergencies do catch our attention. We have seen on our television screens the frozen plight of survivors from the earthquake in northern Afghanistan, where some 30,000 are desperately short of shelter, blankets and food. Even neighbouring Tajikistan has joined the aid effort. This should make us pause. Tajikistan happens to be one of the 20 poorest countries in the world. It is still recovering from a civil war in which 50,000 were killed and hundreds of thousands became refugees. The total of pledged aid for Tajikistan is still ten million dollars short of the target set by the UN. And it is now sending earthquake aid to Afghanistan?

While something may or may not be done to help the Afghan survivors, food is running short for ten times their number in Tanzania — refugees from Burundi and former Zaire. A conference which opened in Dhaka this weekend, co-sponsored by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation, has heard a simple statistic. Of the 16 million under-five children in Bangladesh, about 14 million are malnourished. Every day nearly 700 Bangladeshis die of acute malnutrition, most of them children under five years of age. No earthquake, no civil war, just poverty and diarrhoea. Nadine Gordimer has written of the "shameful shackles of the past" — over a billion men, women and children in poverty across the world. The new century, she says, is not going to be new at all if we offer only charity while maintaining the same old system of haves and have-nots. That may be a bigger threat than any putative weapon of mass destruction.

* "Poverty in the next century", *Choices* (UNDP, NY 10017), January 1998.

Tacky tacky tacky!!!



The Tony Blair Souvenir



FLETT16, RU 1

Crimes and misdemeanours

READ in the Online Guardian about Della Kirby, the young single mother sentenced to four years in prison for attempting to rob a pizzeria with a fake gun while drunk. As the former owner of a pizzeria in Berkeley, let me state that we would have known, in this gun-crazy cowboy country, how to deal with a 4ft 10in intoxicated female waving around a fake gun. Like, take the toy gun away and throw her out the door. Gary Craig, El Sobrante, California.

SENDING Della Kirby to prison for four years (Pistol packing coward! wanted slice of the action, February 14) for what seems to have been merely a drunken, impulsive hold-up seems pretty harsh to me. But for being a country and western fan, on the other hand... Dr R F Carter, London SW15.

JONATHAN Glancey oddly includes Barcelona and Bilbao in his parliamentary list (Take the low road, G2, February 8). But there is no parliament in Bilbao. Euzkadi's regional assembly is located in the Basque capital, Vitoria. Neither this nor Catalonia's are particularly noted by their style. He might have pointed at Extremadura's assembly, recently completed in Merida by Rafael Monzo, or the new regional assembly in Madrid, still under construction. Pablo Carballo, Madrid, Spain.

WILL you please point out to your sports writers that Michael Owen is not the youngest ever to play for England? I have a clear recollection that "Cannonball" Kidd played for England when he was only 15. Tim the publisher of the *Express* would be able to confirm this from the back numbers. Mick Furey, Rotherham.

READ with interest that Jean Baudrillard has a camera (Pictures of hyper reality, G2, February 13). Since Baudrillard told us the Gulf war never happened, can I suggest he hurries to the Gulf with his camera to capture the events on this occasion for posterity. Perhaps it is not only Gulf wars but Baudrillard himself which are a figment of the media's imagination? Mike Stewart, London N8.

Reprieve for Peak's steep stone gunnels

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

IT IS not quite in my backyard. If, in my mid-nineties, I am still scrambling up Longstone Edge before breakfast on Sunday mornings, the desecration which RMC Roadstone proposed to commit with the Peak Park would offend my eyes. And if the climb is insufficient exercise for a nonagenarian and I was then to walk east along the rim of the escarpment, the classic beech copse — which look as if they have been painted for a tourist board calendar — would have disappeared into a great hole in the hillside. But for the next 30 years an extension of Backdale quarry would neither reduce the value of my house nor directly damage the amenities enjoyed in my village. We might hear the distant rumble of lorries carrying limestone to the motorway. And as we drove home from

Sheffield or Chesterfield, we would be offended by the sight of the great gash in the hillside and the "process plant" which prepares the raw material for market. But if we chose, we could look our doors and draw out curtains and — as is the habit in this tight little island — say that the Backdale mine is a problem for the people down the road. In a way it would be — a problem for everybody who believes that the countryside is worth preserving. Longstone Edge is in the heart of the Peak Park. It is criss-crossed with footpaths which have been on the map for as long as maps of Derbyshire have existed and it is one of the places to which Sheffielders from the east and Mancunians from the west come in great numbers on summer days. Throughout the year, a harder breed of walker — identified by boots with complicated laces, woolly hats and maps hung round their necks in plastic covers — ramble prodigious distances. It is W H Auden's Limestone Country.

"Watch, then, the band of rivals as they climb up and down the steep stone gunnels in twos and threes, sometimes arm in arm, but never, thank God, in step." Minerals have been mined on Longstone Edge for years. But that historical fact, although a precedent, provides no comfort. The planning authority reports that the limited working of earlier times "left the hillside riddled with holes, trenches and small spoil heaps. The overall impression from a distance was, however, still of a wooded hillside with some grassy spaces." That impression will not be preserved if RMC is allowed (as it still hopes) to excavate 1 million tonnes of limestone from Longstone Edge every year for 15 years. And that is only the beginning of the company's expansion plans. In the old-fashioned phrase, it intends to "win" 100 million tonnes of minerals by 2012. That will do more than carve a great hole into the hillside. It will amputate its eastern slope.

Nobody doubts that what RMC proposed would change the landscape forever. The best that the company can promise is the creation of what, in mind-numbing jargon, it calls "a dry valley feature". The improvement to nature would be "similar to the natural limestone dales and would become low-intensity grazing land, with a gradually developing ecological value". Every syllable of their apologetic "similar to 'gradually' is a warning that Longstone Edge would be defiled — not for a decade or two until the sycamore and broom then gave the old quarry a deserted and romantic air, but forever.

It ought to be faith, rather than RMC, which moves mountains. The usual argument of "job creation" cannot sustain the vandalism. Once upon a time mining in the limestone hills did employ a sizeable workforce. But that was when the job was done quite differently. Now a combination of mechanised plant and the roadbuilders' demand for aggregate has changed the

whole process. It has also encouraged RMC to perform the fancy footwork which, it hoped, would allow it to dance round the planning laws. Planning permission for "the winning and working of fluorspar, barytes, and for the working of lead and any other minerals which are won in the course of working those minerals" was granted in 1952 in the belief that the excavation would go down to 15 feet and that, in layman's language, the valuable minerals which the permission specified would be filled from the rock through which the veins ran. That, for the best part of 50 years, was what happened — in the words of the planning authority "generally hidden from the roadside by an avenue of trees". Then RMC had a better idea. It claimed that the best — that means the cheapest — way of extracting fluorspar and barytes would be to dig up the limestone in which it is embedded. Being practical men, they would not have wasted the by-product, 100 million

Declarations on rights

THERE is nothing in the case law of the European Convention of Human Rights that would justify the fears in the media that the incorporation of the convention in the UK will muzzle the press. The convention only requires that respect be shown for private life and that any interference must be justified. However, Lord Alexander (This last must come, February 13) repeats a frequent misconception. He stated the convention only applies to interferences by the state. This is wrong. It is clear from 20 years of case law that states have an obligation to take steps to make sure that the enjoyment of all the rights in the convention are protected by national law irrespective of whether people are at risk from the actions of the state or private individuals. Nuala Mole, Director, The Aire Centre, London SW2.

THE Lords recently introduced into the Human Rights Bill amendments drastically reducing the obligations of religions. One amendment permits a defence non-criminal abuses of... Jonathan Steele (What Brecht shot, G2, February 13) claims the Brecht centenary in Germany "is being marked by a kind of awkward silence". Nothing could be further from the truth. On German TV the coverage has been massive. Overall the picture of Brecht is very positive, with ideological muckraking scarcely in evidence. Mike Lyons, Abingdon.

JONATHAN Steele (What Brecht shot, G2, February 13) claims the Brecht centenary in Germany "is being marked by a kind of awkward silence". Nothing could be further from the truth. On German TV the coverage has been massive. Overall the picture of Brecht is very positive, with ideological muckraking scarcely in evidence. Mike Lyons, Abingdon.

human rights if they are "in pursuance of a manifestation of religious belief in accordance with the historic teaching" of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. It is far too trusting effectively to exempt these religions. We call on the Government to reverse this amendment and review in the Commons the other religious exemptions introduced by the Lords. Iain Banks, Edward Bond, Prof Richard Dawkins, Maureen Duffy, Rt Hon Michael Foot, Lord Hughes of Woodside, George Melly, Claire Rayner, Dr David Starkey, Barbara Smoker, Dennis Cobell, London.

THE Human Rights Bill will get its second reading in the Commons today. It is vital that MPs now resist the attempts of newspaper proprietors and the Press Complaints Commission to weaken their way out of their responsibilities to the public under Articles 8 and 10 of the convention — the right to privacy and freedom of expression. Hugo Young (Press barons put pressure on Blair, February 7) omitted one item of the newspaper industry's hypocrisy: its failure to include any "conscience clause" in its code of practice. Presumably journalists who have that code included in their contracts of employment can be fired if they breach it. But they have no protection if they refuse an assignment on the grounds that it will conflict with the very code to which they are contracted. Many newspapers refuse to recognise the National Union Journalists' code of conduct which members have been expected to abide by since 1935. If Lord Wakeham and his masters really mean what they preach, let them follow the Swedish example, under which "a journalist cannot be ordered to write against his/her conviction or to carry out humiliating assignments". Mike Jemson, Frieswick, John Koster, General Secretary, NUJ, Julian Petley, Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom.

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Unions' modest proposals for democracy in the workplace

YOUR leader hit the nail on the head (Union on the right track, February 13). Granting recognition to unions doesn't mean handing over power, it is merely about the right to negotiate and to be consulted. So it is surprising that there all this fuss. In fact Britain is unusual in not having a statutory right to recognition and elsewhere it's usually without any form of ballot. In Japan, the constitution guarantees workers the right to organise and to bargain collectively and a refusal to do so is prohibited as an unfair labour practice. This is a bit different to our modest proposal, which requires a majority of those voting in the relevant bargaining unit. Roger Lyons, General Secretary, MSF.

YOU write that if union recognition were to be determined by a majority of those voting then "a turnout of 100 employees producing a 70 to 30 vote in a company employing 1,000 would bring union recognition for all". So leaving aside the fact that most council elections attract only a minority of the electorate to vote, what is the problem with the unlikely situation you describe? Union recognition imposes no obligation on workers to join, nor on a company to negotiate. Only a union with substantial employee support will be able to turn recognition into effective bargaining influence. Conversely, why should not one employee with a grievance be entitled to union representation? Richard Hyman, University of Warwick.

FIND it a bit surprising that your newspaper finds a common principle of democratic elections to be "extreme". Surely those who can be bothered to vote must have their views taken into account. It is unreasonable to suggest that a silent majority should hold the key. A single majority is enough to decide the trade union recognition issue; if people in the workplace are anti-union they can vote against in any ballot, or leave the union. This incorporates a defining characteristic of democracy: the recognition that people have the right to vote for choice or abstain altogether. Daniel Ferrett, Oxford.

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: On a blustery day of bright sunshine between quick, squally showers with a hint of snow in them, we went back to Wetherlam, a favourite fell for almost 70 years. From Tiberthwaite we used the attractive approach of Steel Edge and Swallow Scar, steepish in its upper craggy section that leads to a pleasant tarn, and then, turning right and northwards along the main path to the summit, Wainwright missed this obvious way, so it remained untracked until about 20 years ago, when explorers kicked a way up the scree. Much preferable, however, is to take the easy road, on the right, a pleasant scrambling staircase to the top of the Scar — our usual route half a century ago, and the way we always take nowadays, up or down. The summit, looking down to the west, Brathay and scattered waters of Brathay and Little Langdale and across, north-west, to the Scafell, is always a sad place of pilgrimage, for it was here, 22 years ago to the day, where we scattered

the remains of a well-loved brother. But there are happier memories — especially of a winter's day, when, after an exciting snow and ice climb of the east face, in fog so thick we had to use a compass, we stepped on to a summit flooded in sunshine, with a sea of white cloud covering the Lake District, and the Scafell and nearer summits sticking up like islands. Then, turning round from this view, perhaps 20 years ago, I saw seemingly about 100 yards away, the finest Brocken Spectre I have ever witnessed, unusually embellished with a double "glory" — my figure, enlarged many times, photographed against every gesture. That day we left the apparition looking out across the sunlit cotton-wool sea, and stepped carefully down the icy Wetherlam Edge into the muck. We took the same route the other day but, this time, swarmed easily down warm wind-blown slabs with the Tiberthwaite woodlands beckoning far below. A HARRY GRIFFIN

Pour on sh

Comments Peter Preston

The 2nd only VICTORY MING'S SHROUD

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Polly Toynbee

Parent benefit

Planned

Welcome to

about's plan to

the poor

through tax and

Palanan diary

John Vidal

SO WHAT were the 40 young Korean women doing setting up their tents with a born-again evangelist priest in a community of hunter-gatherers here on the northernmost tip of the Philippines? With out phones, papers, or any access to the outside world when—as they mostly do—clouds shroud the great Sierra Madre mountains to the west, rumours spread through the neighbouring Filipino communities.

The local policeman was called but the Koreans' papers were in order. The security services were called; they could pin nothing on them. Only the Dumagot clan knew their purpose. The strange women who spent most of their time on their knees in the sands wanted the sexual favours of their young men. Did the women embrace the priest? Didn't they offer rice and fruit? With one accord the retreating Dumagots took to their boats.

The local policeman decided the Koreans were gene pirates; a set of women who wanted to procreate with the tribe because it had no known western diseases. Soon, the locals were disguising themselves as Dumagots and queuing to offer their services. The Koreans, in turn, were reportedly deeply confused; they got back on their knees and the nipped sticks back home to Seoul.

In this, the remotest corner of the Philippines, the surreal is normal. And a secret war is being fought for the region's pristine resources. This is most evident in the vast virgin forest which surrounds the mountains. The government has declared the region a wilderness but the province is plotting to develop "eco-tourism" on the scale of Bendor.

The forest is alive with people. International mining groups secretly survey it for gold and other minerals. Illegal loggers pick away at the edges but they must dodge the respectable Mr Wong, chief Palanan lobbyist, who has mobilised the communities to capture anyone with a chain-saw. Here, too, deep in the trees, live old, discredited freedom fighters. They emerge occasionally to extort money for businesses in the low land.

The sea, too, is a battleground. High-tech Taiwanese trawlers boomer up the coastal fish even as local Filipino businessmen pay people to sneak in by night to dynamite the coral reef. No one is too sure of anyone's motives since the respectable Mr Wong, chief Palanan lobbyist, was found to be stuffing his catches with drugs. He is now in prison, serving several years.

BUT ABOVE all, the fight around here is for human souls. Jehovah's Witnesses vie with Jesuits, fundamentalists and dozens of freelance churches in a religious free for all.

The Christian Mission for the Unreached has struck gold. They have moved in to the largest Dumagot community and, peddling education, have got half the village reading the Bible for five hours a day, with two more hours praying in the evening.

The local shaman has converted and is now paid one pound of rice per day to go forth and plant churches in other Dumagot communities. Where once he used a spirit boat to climb waterfalls and told the time by bird and fungi, now he sports a gold watch and goes about in a very temporal motor boat.

Backing up the Christian Mission is the mysterious Samaritan Institute of Linguists, whose mission is to spread the Word by translating the Bible into every language on earth. So far they have taken three years to render Genesis into the Dumagot language. It begins "Sapulan il Sapulan A Sapulan A Gimitan". It will end, says one observer, in the Dumagots' total demise.

SHE SOUNDS LIKE A BOWY LASS DOWN SOUTH IN THE DOME.

Pour more cold water on showbiz prizes

Commentary

Peter Preston

I WAS sitting at a dinner table next to Mike Leigh the week The Full Monty came out. He'd seen it: I hadn't. What did he reckon, then? OK, fine. "But it would have been better with another director, like Keo Loach."

Ye gods! I thought when I saw it. Save us from that. The strippers leave half-way through to join the Sandinistas? Or, more likely, the intrinsic injustice of brute capitalism, coupled with haunting remorse over the exploitation of their bodies, drive our heroes to crime, or suicide, or both. Not many laughs there.

And not many box office records either. Thank heavens for ordinary commercial directors—like Peter Cattaneo—doing ordinary commercial things well.

Yet Mike Leigh turns out to have had a point: one that grows stronger with every succeeding awards jamboree and every inspirational welfare-to-work message from

Tony Blair. Did you see Labour's top dogs (pre-drenching) bogging around at the Brits last week as a pudgy Tom Jones bawled Monty's greatest hits? Bel Little-John lives, and stalks the mean streets of Sheffield.

This movie has changed mystically over the months since release. Once it was a sweetly short, feel-relatively-good comedy without a pretension in sight. Now it's an inflated icon of British screen potential: living testimony that domestic talent (albeit bankrolled by Rupert Murdoch) could conquer the world if the Lottery would only cough up more munificence. It has also transmogrified into a parable of the times about (variously) the resilience of the human spirit, the community of the dole queue, the feminised humiliation of hunter-gatherers, the ultimate defining of New Laddism. Even Keo Loach might have jibbed at so much Meaning.

To go back and see it again, post-balloon, seems somehow unfair—but salutary. Is this what all the fuss was about? The characters, chuffing and blinding and mugging away, don't make sense from one scene to the next.

Why does Gaz, the spunky designer of the sub-chipper, dales wheeze, get cold feet at the last? Why is son Nate of

the school gate too thick to see that dad's out in the cold, but luminously clear-sighted in the end? What psychological magic turns fat Dave from freaked-out wreck into master of ceremonies? Foreman Gerald is in charge one moment and quivering about an uncontrollable hard-on the next; flat broke one minute, then inexplicably flush with funds.

None of the main men, in short, really lives or develops. They are insulated comic turns in a collection of sketches—some heavily poignant, like Gerald's unemployed months of not telling his wife; some simple-mindedly farcical, like Dave wrapping himself in a shiny chocolate bar. The women click on and off like a switch, baleful or dewy by numbers. Does Dave's wife get angry because he chucks up the super-market job she's got him and disappears with the shop-lifted goods? She doesn't even mention it. Anything for a tear, or a giggle.

And if the people don't exist, then nor in truth does this version of Sheffield. The hillside with the view is straight out of Rocky; the butchery is the 1980s revived. (Here's looking at Rohin Askew, kidy as for the million, we've supplanted his essence in every half-decent British

comedy over the last 50 years. The lovable Londoners who once doled out passports to Pimlico having been watching too much TV in the interim and decided to move north, learning some dodgy language on the train.

Harsh? It's not intended to be. You can't argue with continuing success (which still brings gales of laughter on an Odeon afternoon). You can't argue with taking round the world that make everybody rich. (Rupert can keep the Monday Times at 20p for three more months—even before Titanic chips in.) The sight gags don't need to be as many as in Spanish or Italian or Japanese. Anywhere where stuff for anywhere people, rattling merrily along to the crest of a climax. Who, on these terms, can knock The Full Monty?

No, the trouble isn't Cattaneo's shrewd little construct-

For an eerie moment at the Brits, President Bill and President Tony fused into a single smile

tion. That's fine, as Mike Leigh might say. The trouble is the edifice of dreams and self-congratulation we build upon it. The course of the Oscars strikes again.

There's something demeaning about nominations day every February. Suddenly we start to measure ourselves—who we are, what we stand for—against the Hollywood votes of faceless Academy members. We are, absolutely, explicitly, honourary Yanks for the duration. Four actresses

on the list? Amazing. Cue for endless features about British actresses hestriding the golden globe. Four hits for Monty? The bandwagon rolls—and the coverage is exactly what you'd expect from papers anywhere in the States. Sheffield rejoices. Local boys and girls make good.

Cultural identity? Forget it. It has to be for us first and the Brits when Tony and Cherie, beaming adulation, found a video camera and a White House corner to present a Lifetime Award to Sir Elton John—a moment when President Bill and President Tony fused into a single smile.

But films ought to matter more than showbiz schmaltz. They are the most important art form because they talk most insistently to young audiences. They help us define ourselves. And some of that definition, inalienably, shouldn't be for more expensively than for less. The rest later, if at all. Yet awards love-ins, the industry *en fete*, send the precisely opposite message: they celebrate the ability to talk to everybody in general, and nobody in particular.

By chance, Umberto Pasolini, the producer of The Full Monty, arrived at the project via Palookaville, a comedy of New Jersey low-lives hurling into crime which ripped the art houses last year. That was film-making of the highest class. It created a world and drew you in. The characters lived, the predicament developed. But no nominations there, of course. Too much inverted Americana for Americans.

Uberto would seem to have learned his lesson. Nation shall speak broader generalities to nation more remunerative. We are, absolutely, explicitly, honourary Yanks for the duration. Four actresses

cent, with new child care tax credits will be a great bonus but that cover will have been done just as well under the present system. So what's the upheaval really for?

At first Gordon Brown said he wanted people to get this money in their pay packet so they associated it directly with work. (There's no evidence people don't make that connection at present.) Some of us protested that 300,000 mothers would lose out, the money taken from their benefit and put into their partner's pay packet instead. However, last week the Chancellor stated that glitch—the paying out system would remain much the same. But in that case, what's the point of the whole thing?

The real point is this—and it has nothing whatever to do with these technicalities: if the aim is to redistribute a lot

They believe Middle England will trust a scrounger-free benefits system

of money to the working poor, it's easier done by sleight of hand with benefits than by a mistically called a tax credit, not a benefit. It is hidden in the tax system, not added to a benefits budget that Tony Blair has been unwisely denouncing as far too large (it's the lowest in Europe). Middle England, like the working poor and it will be politically easier to pay it this way.

Is the Government right? Yes, if the increase really is high enough to be worth the hassle. The politics of social security is more important than its nuts and bolts, as Clinton found, welfare risks collapsing not from cost, but from lack of political support.

But what of those many who can't work? The Government believes that once all those who can be in work, Middle England will trust a scrounger-free benefit system. That would let them do the right thing on child benefit, vastly increasing it for the lowest 20 per cent in and out of work, taxing and maybe removing it eventually from the richest families. (Yes, it can still be universally paid to all mothers, taxing it back down high-earning fathers.) Child benefit is the best way to help poor children, without damaging work incentives.

So there you have the outline of a way to redistribute serious money to the poorest. Thankfully, the far-left hope that much money can be saved from benefits is fading. To be sure, some of the not-so-rich middle class might be found jobs and the New Deal's good quality training should improve many people's life-time prospects. But there's less wild talk of the "virtuous cycle" that would get so many people into work that huge sums could be saved from the social security budget to put into health and education. It was always fool's gold.

Try to forgive and forget the lone parent best-kept secret, a bungled last-summer Tory policy, not an indicator of this Government's future intent on welfare reform. (Under Brown's scheme lone parents will get it back in another guise.) Right now the auguries are good. Good, that is, so long as the first blast from some supposed Middle England mouthpiece doesn't frighten them into something less generous and less ambitious.

Call of the wild lures urban woman drivers



Ros Coward

THE CAMPAIGN to get cars off the road has won some astonishing converts: vehicle manufacturers themselves. The adverts are everywhere. Even safety-conscious Volvo has come up with "Whatever next? A Volvo designed to go off the road". As environmentalists battle to save the world's last wildernesses the motor manufacturers are right behind them, boasting that their four-wheel drives can handle the most impossible of terrains, "to boldly go where no man has gone before" as Land Rover put it. The four-wheel drive is a great success for motoring and a huge pain for everyone else.

They are marketed on their ability to go off-road and cope with any terrain: the driving world's equivalent of skiing off piste. Their names evoke the frontier mentality—Discovery, Cherokee, Frontera, Freelander. Recently we've had images of cars perched on precipices, or scrambling through wild scenery with passengers in the lap of luxury. The Jeep is shown standing in a river while the surrounding wilderness is labelled: cupholder, four-wheel sensors, heated rear windscreens. Another showed a four-wheel drive trundling across the contours of a woman's body, combining old and new genres in objectionable car advertising. Other manufacturers have followed suit: one has a cat perched off track beside a sign announcing: "Area of outstanding natural beauty". You don't need a degree in advertising semiotics to know this refers to the car.

Fortunately for the environment, few get near such wild places. As Vincent Hammett, the corporate communications manager of Land Rover, put it, "The nearest most of them get to going off the road is two wheels on the pavement outside Harrods." Every urban driver has met them, usually in narrow streets between unbroken walls of parked vehicles. With consideration, you can just squeeze past a fellow saloon car. Then along comes the four-wheel drive. It's too wide to pass and the driver, perched up there looking down her nose at you, is in no mood to give way. She's got a cargo of kids to deliver to school and compromise is out of the question.

Vincent Hammett knows full well why such drivers respond to his company's call of the wild. "The driving seat is so high up, we call it the 'command position'.

You're not going to be intimidated by fools in black taxis or white vans." He'll even acknowledge that they are having fun road rage ramming. When asked why 70 per cent have tow-bars fitted he extols the virtues of the open air lifestyle: "Some use it for caravans, boats or horse trailers," adding, "some use it for reversing into their neighbours cars, of course". Local newspapers are full of stories of four-wheel drives put to such uses. A recent robbery in Keot was carried out after a four-wheel drive was used to ram the front of a supermarket.

Women of a certain class are particularly attracted to the message of cocooned comfort in a dangerous world, as any London driver knows. Land Rover acknowledges awareness of the large percentage of female customers as a consideration in the design of the new baby off-roader, the Freelander, which last month created over 1,000 new jobs: "The issues are personal security and children's safety. If you're going to put your family jewels in a car, you want something with a bit of meat on it." They are convinced that the Freelander will be a huge success. It is lighter to drive but retains the key "command position".

There's a further advantage to the four-wheel drive. Forget the Himalayas, they are both designed and used for coolly overcoming all the obstacles created by the road traffic reduction lobby. What other car can handle traffic calming devices with such ease? Traffic humps disembody ordinary cars and can even cause pedestrian injuries. An acquaintance recently tripped on one and broke her shoulder. But four-wheels hardly notice them. A nice wide wheelbase also enables them to use the depressions provided for the emergency services, and the suspension can take on the most obstreperous of sleeping policemen, as well as the odd pothole. The image of penetrating dangerous nature is just a metaphor for the real danger and risk—our contemporary roads and the obstacles, human and otherwise, between the individual motorist and his destination.

THESE are the ultimate "me first" vehicles, the car of the urban survivor. This is a vigilante car: the driver feels justified in using aggression to protect herself in the face of risk. Its success should give clear warning about future struggles of the anti-car lobby. The only way things will get safer is if we all agree to calm traffic down. But motorists and the car industry are not thinking about returning streets to the people. The four-wheel drive is simply another notch up in the technology to ensure individual driver safety. And when it comes to the confrontation, just remember who has the hull bars.



Paid as you earn

Polly Toynbee argues that it's time to forgive and forget those lone parent benefit cuts. She gives a guarded welcome to Labour's plan to help the poor through tax and benefits reforms



NOW we see through a glass darkly, but at the budget next month we shall start to see the true face of Labour. The image may still be dim, the picture fuzzy, but gradually we see them more clearly. We shall know what really drives them and where their real priorities lie.

One issue dominates, above all others. Wherever you go, whoever you speak to, high and low the talk is of what can be done about the poor. How can the tax and benefits system be honed into a creative not a destructive force? How can welfare-to-work galvanise people, how can it not just shove people into lousy jobs but lead on upwards into a permanently better life?

bravery and persistence not to blench and trim in the face of criticism. We know how easily they take fright at a largely imaginary demon called Middle England. On so many issues we watch their better instincts warring with an unreasonable lack of nerve and we don't yet know which will win in the end. Eighteen years of exile has left damaging psychological scars, so that even while soaring in the polls, Labour is frightened of its own shadow, doubting its own moral strength and popularity. All its stumbles so far spring from that cowardice.

So what will the budget tell us? It will look ahead to April 1999, when the spending restraints are removed, and map out a plan for the poor that begins to look good. We don't yet know how much money will be spent, but the hint is that it may be sizeable over the next few years. This is the route map, even if we don't know how fast it will be driven.

At first the money will be poured into making work pay, creating what may be a very large difference between the quality of life for families on benefit and those in low paid jobs. With the minimum wage underpinning the bottom, on to that will be added a new higher tax credit, a new child care credit, a 10p income tax starting rate and far lower starting rates of National Insurance. Until we

see the budget figures we won't know, but the package could mean a real change for the working poor.

If it really is generous, then those of us who have criticised the proposed new Working Families Tax Credit will be silenced. Objections were these: the Family Credit it replaces works pretty well (though Brown's people say the new system will pick up the 30 per cent currently not claiming).

Moving it to the Inland Revenue to pay out instead of the Benefits Agency means every employer will have to distribute it through the pay packet.

That's a vast and tricky bureaucratic task, as they are used to taking PAYE in, not giving benefits out. And it means alerting employers to payments they are largely unaware of, giving them an added incentive to keep pay low and deliberately employ parents who qualify. Exchanging the current mean-spirited "child care disregard", only claimed by 6 per

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10 OBITUARIES

The Guardian Monday February 16 1998

On camera... Robertson and Hitch in cameo roles in *Topaz*

Peggy Robertson

Smoothing out the Hitch

DESPITE Alfred Hitchcock's reputation as a misogynist, the three most important people in his life were his screenwriter-wife Alma Reine, screenwriter-producer Joan Harrison, and his personal assistant and script supervisor Peggy Robertson, who has died aged 61. Robertson was credited as "assistant to Mr Hitchcock" on every film of his from *The Birds* in 1963 to *Family Plot*, in 1976. That credit, however, was inadequate to describe her role both in administrative and creative spheres.

Hitchcock was introduced to the 30-year-old London-born Slater in 1949, when he was in England working on *Under Capricorn*, his first British film for 10 years. She was working as, what was then called, a "script girl" at Den-

ham studios. Employed by Hitchcock at EMI studios in the same capacity on *Under Capricorn*, she smoothed away many production problems, especially the strained relationship between "Hitch" and his leading lady, Ingrid Bergman, who objected to the director's methods. As was usual when people started to argue with him, Hitchcock would turn his back, go home, and leave his associates to deal with the situation.

Somehow Peggy managed to convince the almost hysterical Bergman to go along with Hitchcock. It was to be the first of many examples of her troubleshooting talents on his pictures. The following day, the star told the director: "Okay, Hitch, we'll do it your way." Hitchcock replied: "It's not my way, Ingrid. It's the right way!"

Peggy stayed on with Hitchcock on his next film, *Stage Fright* (1948), also shot at EMI, during which she had to boost Jane Wyman's low morale because the director paid more attention to Marlene Dietrich, who was allowed to have her own way in almost every respect. It would be eight years before Peggy would return to Hitchcock's inner circle, by which time she had married the Canadian film editor Douglas Robertson.

She was back as script supervisor on *Vertigo* (1958). According to Hitchcock, he enjoyed the chance to throw Kim Novak, whose "head was full of her own ideas", into the water 24 times. But Robertson's meticulous notes show that there were only four takes of Novak plunging into the studio tank (representing San Francisco Bay) and being pulled out by James Stewart.

The first because of a problem with Stewart's hair, the second because he paused in his dive, the third and fourth because of a mismatch in the continuity in the way he lifted her in the location footage. In fact, Peggy's copious note-taking on all the films has acted as a corrective to some of Hitchcock's mischievous exaggerations or memory lapses.

It was during the making of *North by Northwest* (1959) that the acute and acerbic Robertson, became one of Hitchcock's most trusted advisers. She was always on the sound stage when he arrived in the morning, seeing that everything was ready for the first set-up, and was also responsible for sorting through piles of submissions that arrived at his office every day.

Hogan 'Kid' Bassey

Packing the first big punch out of Africa

AFRICA can nowadays boast several names that give the continent credibility in the boxing world. However, there were also figures from an earlier age, the most notable being two Nigerians, Dick Tiger and Hogan 'Kid' Bassey. The latter, who has died in Lagos aged 65, was Nigeria's first world boxing champion, winning his title in 1957 at the age of 25.

Bassey, a man of complex personality and also a fighting machine, pummeled his opponent, Cherif Hamia, forcing the referee to stop the fight. A hero had been born.

Tough and gentle, ruthless and polite, confident and modest, Hogan 'Kid' Bassey was born in Creek Town, Calabar, in the present Cross River state. The eldest of five brothers, he went to secondary school in Lagos, where he quickly became captain of the boxing team and champion boxer. In 1948, he met D J Collier, who became a great influence in his life, and who referred most of Bassey's co-fighters. While in school, he turned professional and won the national flyweight championship. In 1950, he moved up a weight and won the national bantamweight title.

Two years later, there was no more opposition left to fight in Nigeria, so Bassey

moved to Liverpool to campaign for a British Empire title. He won his first fight with a cool confidence that wooed over the crowd, who accepted him as a "Liverpool boy". There were setbacks, but he climbed steadily up the ladder, and, in Belfast in November 1955, he stopped Billy "Spider" Kelly in round eight to become not only the British Empire Featherweight Champion but also a world-class boxer.

His punch became world famous. Some described it as "a haymaker", others called it "the Bassey killer punch". He became a rightful contender for the world title, which had been vacant at the time he had defended successfully his British Empire title against the Trinidadian Percy Lewis.

In 1956, Bassey and his handlers travelled to the United States. In Washington, he scored a unanimous points victory over Miguel Berrios. In an elimination contest, which gave him a shot at the 1957 world title in Paris. He was the pride of Britain and Nigeria. In 1958, he was awarded the OBE.

Bassey successfully defended his world title against Eliseo Merino in Los Angeles. Thereafter, most of his fights were in the US, where

he convincingly defeated opponents such as Jules Touan, Willie Pep, Carmelito Costa and Ernesto Parra. His reign as world champion came to an end in 1959 when he was defeated in Los Angeles by Davey Moore, five months later he lost again to Davey, and retired.

After that, Bassey returned to Nigeria to become national boxing coach, a post he held for more than 10 years. He played an important role in the success of Nigerian amateur boxers on the international scene.

In the ring, Bassey's character spoke for him. He was a clean boxer and, in spite of a devastating punch, he relied on his skill, an assessment of his opponent's weakness and his speed, as much as on his marvellous physique. In 1963, he published his sports handbook, *Hogan on Boxing*, and as a tribute to his achievements, a street was named after him in Nigeria.

He was married twice; firstly to Mary Williams, and later, in 1977, to Mary Magdalene. Between them, the relationships produced eight children.

Tago Fatunla

Hogan 'Kid' Bassey, boxer, born June 3, 1932; died January 26, 1998



Top title... Hogan with trophy as 'sportsman who did most to raise the prestige of Nigeria'

John Cooper

The word of Allah

THE journey of John Cooper, who has died aged 50, engendered a remarkable erudition and approach to the study and teaching of Islamic texts, incorporating a traditional Iranian Islamic training with a sophisticated application of critical methods. His study of Shi'ite legal theory, using modern semantics, set a new standard.

Born in Brighton, Cooper was educated at Highgate School, and graduated from St John's College, Oxford with a philosophy, psychology and physiology degree. Five years at a Casablanca language school kindled his interest in the Islamic world, which was followed by similar work in Iran. In 1977, he moved to the Shi'ite holy city of Qom, where he taught English and studied the traditional curriculum of law and philosophy at the Islamic University.

He then returned to Oxford for post-graduate Islamic studies and became involved in a project to computerise oriental texts. In 1987, his translation of volume one of the classical Arabic Qur'anic commentary by al-Tahari appeared.

In 1989, Cooper was appointed E G Browne Lecturer in Persian studies at Cambridge, and began a period of inspired teaching, which linked his intense intellectual life with the external world of people and places which so attracted him. The astute ideas which he deciphered came alive in the interchange with his students. His main

interest was in the problems of integrating tradition and modernity in Islamic religious thought.

Cooper co-organised a colloquium on Islam and modernity at St Antony's College, Oxford in 1996. A book on the subject, which he co-edited, will appear shortly.

M S F Safavi

John Cooper, Persian scholar, born August 24, 1947; died January 9, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

QUOQUE, Loog Island, New York, was wrongly said to be in Westchester County, Page 10, G2, February 12. It is in Suffolk County.

A REVIEW of the BBC1 programme, *Pleasure Beach*, Page 19, G2, February 10, expressed some puzzlement about the connection between a young Spanish woman and escudos. She wasn't Spanish. She was Portuguese, like the escudos.

It is the policy of the Guardian, to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Mayes, by telephoning 0171 239 5589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 239 5697. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Tom Hudson

An apostle for new art

TOM Hudson, who has died aged 75, started from simple beginnings in County Durham, the son of a miner prominent in the union. As a student, he was given a hard time by the old-fashioned constraints of the National Board of drawing examination while at Sunderland Art School, and, in response, became a ceaselessly inventive post-Cubist sculptor and a great missionary for creativity in many forms and all around the globe.

In the 1950s, he was a core contributor to the renaissance of British art education. Teaching with Harry Thubron at Leeds College of Art, and working with Victor Pasmore and Richard Hamilton at King's College, Durham Uni-

versity, they revolutionised those institutions and propagated their methods via summer schools, exhibitions and publications. The splendid development in our art schools in the 1960s stemmed directly from this co-operation.

I had the good fortune to be involved at Leeds. It was Tom who suggested I should cross the road from the school of architecture to teach art history to his students. Certainly it was Tom who guided me from Old Master art into some understanding of post-impressionist and modern art, just as it was Harry Thubron who opened my eyes to art as such.

While Harry looked after the formal and two-dimensional work, Tom's sphere was the three-dimensional. Call it sculpture if you like;

Tom preferred words like "experiment" and "research". The Leeds sculpture school became a workshop with welding and spinning metal, vacuum-forming plastics, laying-up glass fibres in resin and other quasi-industrial processes taking over from modelling and casting.

Young men and women came to see these as natural ways of working. The results might be abstract or not, but always included an exploratory component in the use of materials and tools. He asked students to think constructively as much as make constructively. There was theory behind this, and occasional reference to the Bauhaus and Moholy-Nagy, but the basis was an optimistic awareness of what the post-war world

had to offer if only one stepped over conventional boundaries.

After art school had come war service in Burma, a teacher-training course at Newcastle, and art history at the Courtauld Institute. Tom taught first at Lowestoft School of Art, adding courses for schoolchildren to his programme. The joy and natural talent young children brought to making three-dimensional figures and objects convinced him that there was a world to be opened up to the original for schoolchildren to his programme. The joy and natural talent young children brought to making three-dimensional figures and objects convinced him that there was a world to be opened up to the original for schoolchildren to his programme.

He worked with Herbert Read on the annual series of exhibitions of children's art in London, linked to broadcasts and conferences. Sir Herbert, opening a "visual adventure" exhibition in New York in 1964, said of Tom that he had "done more than anyone else

to change and develop art education in Britain". In 1983, on a Radio 4 programme for the Read centenary, Tom spoke eloquently of Read's pioneering role in arguing for art's central place in education.

In 1980, Tom became head of the Foundation course at Leicester, and then director of studies in art and design at Cardiff College of Art. The college became a focus of productive talent in painting, sculpture and all forms of art, while Tom became a one-man powerhouse for a better understanding of the arts. Always something of a performer, he was a jet-setting St John the Baptist, preparing minds and institutions for creative work in all the arts, with music and drama as particular secondary interests. Lecture tours and visiting professorships took him all over the world, and brought him back to the UK many times after he went to Vancouver in 1977.

There, he was dean of instruction at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design until 1987. As dean emeritus,

he worked on successive series of admired television programmes on art, analytical and historical, that continue to be broadcast in British Columbia. The most recent of these, 10 half-hour programmes on *Understanding Modern Art* (1992-93), he considered to be his last educational work. If we could see it here, perhaps it would bring some sense into the yahoos who exchange that currently pass for art debate.

Tom Hudson retired to Eng-



Hudson... missionary zeal

land in December 1994, dogged by ill-health and needing regular dialysis to compensate for renal failure. He prepared for death but continued working, lecturing at the Arncliffe Gallery, Bristol, last November shortly before finally entering hospital. He was married twice, to Moira Marshall and to Gillian Sarah ("Sally") Smith, and had three children, Mark, Kate and John; he was also a proud stepfather to Sally's two previous children.

I remember well the passion he brought to everything he did, and how his desire to lead others into active "seeing, knowing and feeling" through example and argument was impelled by a vision of the world as a happier, integrated home. His sculpture characteristically fused elements of poetry and magic with his technological methods.

Merbert Lynton

Tom Hudson, artist and teacher, born July 3, 1922; died December 27, 1997

Birthdays

Paul Andrews, singer, 78; Paul Bailey, novelist, 61; Ian Banks, novelist, 44; Prof Robin Clark, chemist, 83; Stella Clarke, chairman of council, University of Bristol, 66; Frederick Cumming, painter, 68; Sir Anthony Powell, director, Royal Ballet, 65; John Graham (Aracaria), crossword compiler, 77; David Griffiths, portrait painter, 69; Peter Hain, MP, Minister of State, Welsh Office, 46; Peter Hobday, broadcaster, 61; Mike Holdings, cricketer, 44; Elihu L. Lewis, conductor, 61; Ian Laverdore, actor, 62; Prof Ann Levy, engineer, 72; Ann Lansdale, president, New Hall, Cambridge, 57; John McEnroe, tennis player, 38; Gerard Mansell, former editor, Channel 4 News, 42; Peter Port, poet, 68; Howard Riley, jazz pianist, 55; John Schlesinger, film director, 72; Andy Taylor, rock guitarist, 37.

Death Notices

MOORE. On February 11th 1998, Marjorie Turnbull, of Gales, Cheshire, the dearly beloved daughter of the late George and Margaret Moore and very dear sister of Mary. A dedicated teacher of many years, loved and respected by her pupils and the many friends she had. Her time of death was peaceful. Friends will be welcome at the funeral service on Friday February 20th, at 2.00pm. Burial in St. Martin's Church and South Lane. Tel: 0161 428 2087.

ROBERTS. Irene Sherry, Adm, on February 12th 1998, Adm, formerly of The Grove, Bury, Cheshire. The wife of the late William Roberts. Beloved wife of the late Elton and a dedicated mother. Survived by three children, Mrs. Margaret Roberts, Mrs. Margaret Roberts, and Mrs. Margaret Roberts. Friends will be welcome at the funeral service on Friday February 20th, at 2.00pm. Burial in St. Martin's Church and South Lane. Tel: 0161 428 2087.

In Memoriam

LORD MCGROBORN of Dorset, a memorial gathering is to be held in memory of the Lord McGroborn on Wednesday, 20th March 1998 in the Great Hall, 4th floor, City of London, EC3A 3DF, at 11.00 am.

Memorial Services

COLLIER. Following the death of Miss Eric Mary Collier on December 20th 1997, a memorial service will be held at St. Michael's Church, Lower Church Street, Bury, on Friday March 20th, 1998, at 2.00pm. Friends and colleagues will be warmly welcomed.

BYO please your arrangements. Telephone 0171 713 4267 or fax 0171 713 4259 between 10am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

Jackdaw



Going for gold

EVERY four years when you were growing up, you'd dream about being in the Olympics, standing on that top step, the national anthem swelling around you, dipping your head as someone slipped the gold medal over your head. But there was no way you were ever going to make the team. And figure skating was out - too many sequins. Speed skating? Not a chance.

Then the lunge would come on. You'd lie down in front of the TV and peer over your belly at your pointed toes and practice. You'd think to yourself, How hard

can it be to get on a sled and hang on for dear life? *Details day dreams of an Olympic gold.*

Prodigal son

FROM the outset, the Prodigy were always in a league of their own. They were the techno Take That one guy doing all the work, three other blokes in silly suits go along for the ride. However, while the media praises the song-writing talents of producer Liam Howlett and the Caranahy Street, post-card punk antics of "scary" Keith Flint, they've all ignored the true genius of the band - the one, the only, Leony the dancer.

If you've never seen any of the Prodigy's shows, they generally go something like this: one bloke (Liam) stands behind banks of keyboards and "looks hussy". Keith and Maxim (the ones in "scary" make-up and elaborate costumes) come on, jump about, get the crowd excited, shout at each other and look very sweaty. And then, if you're really lucky, some other guy in a T-shirt might eventually

wander on, start running on the spot, pulling faces and, occasionally, hugging the other members of the band.

Look at it this way: Liam, the keyboard/songwriting bloke has all the hassle and pressure of having to write and produce new hit songs - he's already on record as saying that completing the last album was one of the most stressful things he's ever done. Keith and Maxim not only have to jump around in stupid costumes but they have to "sing", contribute "lyrics" to the music and involve themselves in all sorts of ridiculous "he's behind you" style pantomime charades.

In the old days, Keith and Maxim were on a cushy number too - apart from the occasional largin' up-the-crowd banter ("Wicked", "How you doing, Romford", "Blow your whistles"), they too were like Leony, a bunch of lazy slivers who happened to get involved in one of the best blags ever. But then they were seduced by the dark side, the work ethic, to keep the cushy gig, they felt they

really ought to put their back into it. Now they have to grind their way through exactly the same exhausting on-stage antics time and time again, while Leony simply does his "running on the spot" routine whenever he can be bothered.

In the world of rock, he's the most prominent figure to hold steadfastly to the original *Idler* ethos: the man who knows when he's onto a good thing. He might look pretty dim, but he's got it all worked out. Minimum effort equals maximum returns.

The Prodigy's Leony is more of a slacker than a freerater, according to Idler magazine.

If, only

REGRET is a funny thing - apart from being the only word in the English language that ought to rhyme with "egret", yet doesn't. It is supposed to be about things we should have done and didn't. Like the time you thought you put the lid back on the toothpaste but forgot, only to arrive home and find a red, white and blue striped ce-

ment stuck to your sink. Or like wishing you'd gone out with that girl who you used to take the Mickey out of because she had the same surname as a well-known chain of brewers, and you only found out she was, in fact, the heir to a well-known chain of brewers who it has much too late. But devastating though these things may be, they're not what regret is about. No. Regret is about the things we



Idler... private dancer

shouldn't have done but did. When we say we regret them, we are being not so much economical with the truth as steaming the truth off the co-vel with Tippi-Ex, so we can use it again.

If only I'd... ponders Men's Health.

Desk job

THE director you desk faces will expose you to different types of *ch'i* energy. The *ch'i* energy you face will influence your own *ch'i* energy and it is advisable to decide whether it is the *ch'i* energy that will help you succeed.

For example, facing east will align you with the rising sun, the beginning of a new day and the growth of spring. This energy is ideal for starting a new project, developing new ideas and expanding a business. At the same time, it is advantageous to sit with the entrance in your view and facing towards the centre of the room. Place a compass on the centre of your desk and try the following:

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waydays for for

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Shake-up in NatWest board

Economics Notebook

Merger mania flies in face of analysis

Alex Brummer
Financial Editor

NATWEST will begin reinforcing its board next week by appointing Lord Blyth, as a non-executive director, who it unveils its 1997 results.

The bank and its regulators have been anxious to strengthen NatWest's strategic management in the wake of its disastrous venture into investment banking.

Lord Blyth, who extracted Boots from its difficulties in ethical drugs, and who has

concentrated on making his group a cash-generative machine, is certain to be seen in the City as a potential successor to NatWest chairman Lord Alexander. At the 1998 annual meeting, Lord Alexander is expected to disclose his plans and may announce a retirement date.

Speculation over the future of NatWest's senior management has grown since the bank disclosed about £90 million of losses in the derivatives markets, a year ago. The senior team of Lord Alexander and chief executive, Derek Wanless, have tended off two potential merger partners, Abbey National and

Prudential, and reversed their investment banking strategy at a cost to shareholders of £179 million.

Senior bank regulators are believed to have felt that NatWest's drive to become a world-class investment bank, led by former head of NatWest Markets, Martin Owen, was over-ambitious.

The view is that Lord Alexander and Mr Wanless might have been more cautious — hence, the regulators' encouragement of the bank to strengthen its board. The regulators are also working with NatWest to develop better risk control models.

Potentially, predators are still circulating, despite possible competition problems if an offer arrives from another UK bank. Barclays chief executive, Martin Taylor, is still keen on a merger with NatWest, though overlap in credit card and small and medium-sized businesses has been an obstacle.

If Barclays were, however, to move on NatWest almost certainly Britain's most successful bank, Lloyds, would respond with a counter offer.

Although it, too, has problems with small businesses, it believes it could deal with that, perhaps by hiring off the business to a separate bank. The drive for size within

European banking was underlined yesterday by Jan Kalff, the chairman of the Dutch financial group ABN-Amro, who said that if competitors went on merging the bank might look at more acquisitions. In an interview for CNN, Mr Kalff said mergers among medium-sized banks could weaken ABN-Amro's position. He argued that the advent of the euro would mean that the smaller banking sector in Europe would suffer in the struggle for size.

Some senior executives at NatWest increasingly believe a merger of some kind is inevitable and that the bank will not be independent in a year's

time. But whether the authorities will be enthusiastic about a merger with Barclays is questionable. There is thought to be disappointment in Whitehall over Barclays' handling of the sale of its own merchant banking arm, BZW.

The poor timing and handling of the BZW deal is thought to have dismayed some officials who hoped that the chief executive, Martin Taylor, might make a good candidate for the next governor of the Bank of England.

Mr Taylor's problems over BZW may have left the Chancellor of the Exchequer with few options but to recommend keeping Eddie George.



Victor Keegan

ONE British disease that recurs almost as regularly as the flu is merger mania. We are in the middle of another epidemic and it doesn't seem to matter that most academic analysis shows that mergers don't improve efficiency.

One recent study — presented to the Royal Economic Society — concluded that the net, long-run effect of takeover bids was to reduce (by 1.5 percentage points) the return on capital of the companies making the bids. The report found that investment-led growth was much more beneficial to companies than acquisition-led growth.

Unpublished research a couple of years ago by Monitor, a Massachusetts consultancy, found that nine out of 10 firms that had outperformed their industries over a 10-year period had "stable" structures with no more than one reorganisation and no disruptive change of chief executive.

Hardly any companies take notice of such studies. The current burst of mergers has come at a time when some of our biggest companies like Unilever, Reuters and BP have so much money they don't know what to do with it. Last week it emerged that the Halifax bank was planning to give billions back to shareholders because it can't think what to do with its embarrassing riches.

Perhaps they should read last week's report in the Bank of England Bulletin, saying that despite high levels of profitability and a relatively low cost of capital, investment in general (public and private) had grown less rapidly during this recovery than in previous ones. Part of the reason was weak business investment.

Years ago business used to explain away its lack of investment on the grounds that it needed to make profits first before it could invest. That excuse no longer holds. Industry is awash with money and all it can think of doing with it is gobble up someone else.

home of the industrial revolution, can claim a global success.

But hang on. Is bigger necessarily better in pharmaceuticals? Isn't this the same Glaxo that over the past few decades has proved that with good products, a bit of luck, and strong management it is still possible to take on the world? If mergers are so important in the industry, how come the biggest success of recent years has been the result of a demerger?

When ICI decided to float off its pharmaceutical subsidiary, Zeneca, it was virtually unknown. But Zeneca is now valued on the stock market at an amazing £23 billion while its former parent, the bellwether of British industry is only valued at £7.2 billion.

If Glaxo acquires SmithKline, having already swallowed Wellcome then one of the main reasons for the success of the UK pharmaceuticals industry may disappear: it is one of the few areas where a Japanese-style cluster of successful companies in the same industry compete fiercely with each other. This approach has proved brilliantly successful in Japan so why throw it away?

GLAXO may argue confidently about the need to rationalise research and development spending but bow do we know that competition within a bigger company won't be less effective than competition between companies?

And globalisation? This could simply be a new way of disguising time-wary reasons for merging — rubbing out the competition (enabling prices to go up) and blowing yourself up in size to make it more difficult for you to be taken over.

It will certainly be more difficult for another company to take over Glaxo (unless it fails to deliver the promised synergies in which case its share price will fall and it will be on offer). What is more likely to happen is that if the merger goes ahead it will trigger further amalgamations among smaller pharmaceutical companies.

Mergers are often a substitute for capital investment. Companies find it cheaper to buy another company's undervalued assets. Yet economies cannot grow in the long term without new investment. If UK companies had invested more in recent years then the economy might have avoided the dangers of overheating it is now facing.

Before the election, Labour toyed with the idea of making it difficult for companies to make takeover bids by requiring them to prove to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that positive economic benefits would accrue. That solution was not perfect but at least it put the onus of proof onto the predator to prove that it wasn't just an attempt to buy market share or part of an unstoppable fashion.

That solution has now been quietly dropped so it looks as if we can expect more merger mania and yet more academic treatises on why it doesn't work — which will be completely ignored by the practitioners.

Business resurrection for the Dead

THE Grateful Dead musical empire lies in a crate the size of a truck container in a warehouse here north of San Francisco, writes Mark Tran in Novato, California.

Inside the crate are 25,000 individual performances waiting to be released on compact disc to keep Deadheads satisfied well into the next century.

The Grateful Dead disbanded when lead singer and guitarist Jerry Garcia died two-and-a-half years ago. But Grateful Dead Merchandising, of which the band has sole ownership, has not missed a beat. It is bigger than Elvis Presley Enterprises, which has annual revenues of \$40 million (£24.2 million).

Music still accounts for the bulk of business; about 60 per cent of \$50 million to \$60 million gross comes in every year from records.

But there is also an ever-expanding catalogue of Grateful Dead paraphernalia: tie-dye tee-shirts, sports clothes, watches, Swiss Army knives, wallets, caps, golf balls and dog collars.

The legacy could be even more secure if the company realises its ambition to build, by 1999, a shrine called Terrapin Station. It would be a futuristic fun palace with museum, concert hall, research centre, amusements and hotel. Fundraising for it has already begun with sales of special CD sets.



Un-Dead... The late Jerry Garcia as seen at his 50th birthday in 1992. Shrewd marketing means his band lives on

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN MAZUR

Brown to encourage small firms with corporation tax changes

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

GORDON Brown is set to bolster the small firms sector with a package of measures to encourage the growth of such businesses in his Budget on March 17.

In a move that would delight the Confederation of British Industry the Chancellor is expected to raise the profits limit for firms paying corporation tax under next year's new instalment rules.

It was to be set at £300,000, but after being told by the CBI that this would hit the cash flow of small and medium-sized enterprises and hamper investment, Mr Brown is likely to raise the limit.

He may also introduce measures to encourage smaller enterprises which account for almost half of public sector employment — to become more innovative and entrepreneurial.

In his pre-Budget report Mr Brown bemoaned the fact that

despite generating world-class research and development, particularly in hi-tech areas, Britain's investment record is comparatively poor.

While the United States, Japan and Germany spent more than 2.5 per cent of their national incomes on research and development between 1980 and 1994, the UK spent only 2.35 per cent, the report pointed out.

To close this gap, Mr Brown's Budget is likely to:

- improve access to financial support for bi-tech businesses, particularly in the start-up stages;
- improve the services provided to firms through business links;
- reform capital-gains tax to encourage long-term investment;
- offer tax incentives to improve research and development.

The overall Budget package is expected to be revenue neutral, but any extra money spent on the small firms sector is likely to come from a

crackdown on tax dodging, which may include action to prevent the wealthy avoiding inheritance tax by giving away assets to relatives.

Alongside specific legislation targeted at known tax-avoidance schemes, the Chancellor is considering the introduction of general anti-avoidance legislation.

His plan to increase work incentives for the low-paid by reducing their national insurance contributions — to be paid for by raising employers' contributions for higher-paid workers — was attacked yesterday by the shadow chancellor, Peter Lilley.

Mr Lilley said it was clear that the Chancellor was planning to raise taxes on thousands of businesses.

"The Government has confirmed in answers to parliamentary questions that the changes to the national insurance system planned for the Budget could hit millions of middle-income people," he said.

"There has been heavy

speculation, backed by leaks from Treasury 'spin doctors', that the Chancellor intends to smooth out the hands of employers' contributions for low-paid workers by increasing the contribution made on behalf of employees higher up the income scale."

He added it looked increasingly possible that Mr Brown would abolish the 3 per cent band of employers' contributions and reduce the 7 per cent band to 5 per cent. This, he said, would cost about £1 billion, according to government figures.

Bank of England fears of a pick-up in wage inflation are confirmed today by a CBI survey showing rising pay settlements in both manufacturing and services.

Deals in manufacturing averaged 3.8 per cent in the three months to the end of December, up from 3.5 per cent in the three months to the end of November. Service sector awards averaged 4.5 per cent over the same period, up from 4.2 per cent previously.

Christie's deal close to collapse

Julia Finch

THE £500 million SBC Warburg bid for auctioneers Christie's International was thought to be collapsing last night after a band of wealthy investors ran into organising difficulties.

A bid for the Bond Street auction house, whose sales have recently overtaken rival Sotheby's for the first time in 44 years, was proposed in mid-December by the Swiss investment bank.

But halfway through February there is still no sign of an official offer, and a weekend report suggested cancellation could be announced this week.

The Swiss bank had first approached Christie's at the beginning of December, but its offer was rejected. Within two weeks it came back with a higher offer, thought to be 300p a share.

A prime motive for SBC's move is the growing need

for auction houses to carry risk on their clients' behalf — which means they need access to substantial financial backing.

The bid would turn Christie's into a private company, owned by a small band of wealthy investors, probably led by Bahamas-based billionaire Joe Lewis.

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Should it now fail, there are suggestions Mr Lewis may increase his own near-30 per cent stake.

Shares in Christie's, which had been languishing at 218p last year, took off as SBC's intentions were disclosed. But amid the uncertainty over negotiations they have fallen back to 257p.

A spokesman for the Takeover Panel, which monitors bids, said it was unconcerned about the delay, adding: "The parties are still discussing it."

Awaydays for forger Feld

Dan Atkinson

CONVICTED fraudster Robert Feld — serving eight years for forgery and misleading shareholders — has been allowed to visit London unaccompanied by police or security guards. Prosecutors have expressed concern that the former Resort Hotels chief has been given the "right to roam".

Feld, aged 45, was sentenced last April but has been appearing as a witness in a civil case at the High Court in London. On three occasions this year he is thought to have travelled from Coldingley prison in Surrey to London and back without a guard.

But this is not the first time Feld has seemed to tweak the tail of authority. Last autumn, when he was moved from Wandsworth prison to Coldingley, he reportedly sent all his business contacts a change of address card.

The Prison Service has defended the decision to let Feld travel unaccompanied, which was taken, said a spokesman, only after a "very rigorous risk assessment". Feld had complied with all the conditions laid down, said the spokesman, and was not a danger to the public. By allowing Feld to travel without escort, he said, the service was delivering value for money to the taxpayer.

But some prosecutors are thought to fear Feld's "awayday" activities undermine the gravity of his offences. Described by the trial judge as "a man of quite appalling dishonesty", Feld was found guilty of 12 charges of fraud and forgery, most relating to a £50 million rights issue of shares in 1992.

Feld had lied about both Brighton-based Resort's profit forecasts and its indebtedness to ensure the rights issue succeeded. But within two years, the company's shares were suspended and it went into liquidation with debts of £140 million. He was disqualified for 10 years from acting as a company director.

His appeal against sentence will be heard on March 2.

Dash-for-gas ban endorsed

David Gow

THE Government's moratorium on the "dash for gas" should remain in place for at least two years and ministers give immediate support for "clean coal" generating plants in order to preserve the deep-mine industry, leading energy experts recommend today.

In evidence for the review of power station fuels initiated last year by energy minister John Birtle and due to end today, Jim Watson of the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University says the "dash for gas" has led to delays and breakdowns at gas-fired power stations.

This, he adds, is likely to recur as the international equipment-supply industry searches for the "holy grail" of a gas-fired station with a high thermal efficiency.

60 per cent — and the Government should set up a public mechanism with responsibility to monitor gas-fired plants' reliability.

Dr Watson argues that the increasing proportion of gas-fired stations — CCGTs — in

Britain has accelerated the depletion of national gas reserves.

"Although the latest official figures show that offshore reserves, proven plus probable, will last for at least 15 years at 1996 production rates, the 'dash for gas' has made it more likely that a closer appraisal of alternative supply sources will be required within the next few years," his submission states.

TOURIST RATES — BANK BELLS			
Australia 2.37	France 9.67	Italy 2.877	Singapore 2.88
Austria 2.34	Germany 2.8895	Malta 0.83	South Africa 7.87
Belgium 59.59	Greece 459.39	Netherlands 3.2453	Spain 243.74
Canada 2.30	Hong Kong 12.33	New Zealand 2.74	Sweden 12.98
Cyprus 0.85	India 51.81	Norway 12.05	Switzerland 2311
Denmark 11.08	Ireland 1.1574	Portugal 298.18	Turkey 352.250
Finland 8.86	Israel 5.90	Saudi Arabia 6.04	USA 1.0228

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Check-out time in hotels auction

This week

Tony May

MARRIOTT International has emerged as favourite to buy the £1.8 billion (83 billion) InterContinental Hotels and Resorts chain, leaving British Bass and Ledbrooke behind. The outcome of the auction of the hotel chain, owned by Japan's Saisei Group, will be known on Friday.

The main interest in results this week will be from the financial sector which has underpinned the stock market's rise in recent months.

Barclays' profits are set to fall 20 per cent to £1.8 billion through restructuring costs associated with BZW. Woolwich, too, will look disappointing, with a 4 per cent rise in profit to £388 million, but underlying growth is likely to be nearer 13 per cent.

remained buoyant, while the reinsurance and brokerage arm has continued to struggle amid difficult trading conditions and low insurance rates.

Profits should be up 3 per cent to £88.5 million.

Rank's profits should be down 1 per cent to £283 million, but interest will focus on the group's £1.4 billion capital spending plan for its core brands of Rutins, Odeon, Oasis, Mecca Bingo and Hard Rock Café.

British Aerospace should show a 29 per cent rise in profit to £590 million, but analysts will be gauging the effects of the Asian crisis on British manufacturing.

TODAY — Interlease IAF, Workspace (Q3), Fluor Environmental, Eurosteel, Flying Flowers, Kunkin, Norsk Hydro, Royal Dutch, SDX Business Systems, TSB Bank — Interlease Companies, John Haggan, Marco A. Flanagan Barclays, Irish Permanent, Low & Bonar, Sedgwick, Smithline Section (Q4), Stadiam, Azim Legal & General, WEDNESDAY — Pioneer Allied Irish Bank, Airtrac (Q1), Marney Dooce, St Modwen, Woolwich, THURSDAY — Interlease Belforth, Flax, British Aerospace, Glen Wollom, Provident Financial, Skitigroup, FRIDAY — Pioneer Hunt.

F Mohamed Al Fayed had chosen to spend his millions a mile or so along the Fulham Road at Chelsea rather than at their Second Division neighbors, we would no doubt be reading this morning how Mossad, the CIA and the Royal Family were all involved in the departure of Ruud Gullit from Stamford Bridge.

Ken Bates undoubtedly has the capacity to be as ruthless as all three — with the possible exception of the Royal Family, if Andrew Morton's book is to be believed — and it was Bates who was firmly in the frame as the author of the conspiracy that felled Gullit when the Dutchman was

Call me cynical but my immediate reaction was to wonder what sort of deal Telexet had come up with for the plug. The CeeFax people are clearly being left behind in the personal endorsement business since earlier in the week Michael Owen had told Roh McCaffrey on Sky that he had found out he was in the England line-up through Telexet.

What is wrong, I thought, with these footballers, sitting in their gilded cages watching text messages all day? Don't they like Light Lunch or something? As something of a semi-employed waster myself, that is a programme I can heartily recommend to

Steve Tongue was on the spot providing "colour".

"And any moment now we are expecting Ruud Gullit to walk into the room," was how Tongue kicked off his piece. Had Gullit shaken his head gravely and said, "I must tell you I have received no such assurance from Mr Hutch-

On radio it was a roughly between Opening of Parl medium-sized r

afforded a status in the State Department and a natural disaster

In the freeline world it happens to most of us at some time or other, although the figures involved are usually somewhat less well upholstered. I was prepared to leave it at that, but the arguments rumbled on all weekend, reducing the FA Cup fifth round to the status of a sideshow.

On Hold The Back Page on Sky, Patrick Collins of The Mail on Sunday said he had an instinctive sympathy for Gullit, mainly because he had been accused of greed by David Mellor. Amen to that. In a business as venal as the Premier League, sucking someone because of greed is

tiptoe-lipped when caught on camera, but gave valuable ammunition to the Mister Angries who spent the weekend calling the phone-in shows when he revealed that Gullit's deal involved the club providing "peripherals", like a house and a car.

Faced with a world in which cars and houses are "peripherals" to be paid for by somebody else I almost called in myself, but decided a more intelligent response was either to take refuge in the recititive thrills of women's curling or throw in my lot with that other creative performer with ice, Danbert Nobeson.

with guests Stephen Gray and Brown, such as:

Tuesdays
Live Oriskany West India v England,
(12.30-2.45pm and 4.50-5pm) High-
lights, 10.45pm

Wednesdays
Walter Whitcombe: From Nagano,
(Europeans, from 2pm; BBC2, 7.45-8.45pm,
12 noon) and 11.55pm

Thursdays
Live Swinklers: Royal Scottish Opert,
(5.30-7.30pm, 2.5pm and 7-10pm)

Fridays
Generals: A Question of Sport,
(BBC1, 8.30pm)

Saturdays
Live Football: Scotland v Arsenal, Coca-
Cola Cup, semi-final second leg,
(Sky Sports 2, 7.30pm)

Sundays
Walter Whitcombe: From Nagano,
(Europeans, from 2pm; BBC2, 7.45-8.45pm,
12.30-2.45pm and 4.50-5pm)

Monday
Live Swinklers: Scottish Opert,
(Sky Sports 2, 4.5pm and 7-10pm)

Tuesday
Live Football: Middleburybury v Liverpool,
Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg,
(TV, 8pm)

Wednesday
Walter Whitcombe: From Nagano,
(Europeans, from 4pm; BBC2, 7.45-8.45am,
12.30-2.45pm and 7-8pm).

Live **Swansea** Scottish Open.
 (Live Sports 3, 4-6pm and 7-10pm)
 Live **Swansea** Chrysler Classic from
 the United States.
 (Live Sports 2, 9pm)
 Football: **First Half of the Day**
 (BBC1, 10.45pm)
Sunday 22
 Live **Football**: Manchester United v Leeds
 United
 (Live Sports 1, 3pm)
 Live **Olympics** from Nagano.
 (Eurosport from 2am BBC1, 4.30-7.25pm;
 BBC2, 7.30-10.30pm and 1.30-4.30pm)
 Live **Football**: Birmingham City v Sheffield
 Wednesday
 (Live Sports 2, 12 noon)
 Live **Tennis**: ATP tournament from
 Anvers.
 (Eurosport, 1pm)
 Live **Swansea** Scottish Open.
 (Live Sports 3, 4-6.30pm and 7-10pm)
 Live **Water Rafting**: Nadger from
 Rockingham.
 (Eurosport, 5.30pm)
 Live **Football**: West Ham v London Towers v Birm-
 ingham Bullets
 (Live Sports 1, 6.30pm)
 Live **Golf**: Tucson Chrysler Classic.

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3.50

F Mohamed Al Fayed had chosen to spend his millions a mile or so along the Fulham Road at Chelsea rather than at their Second Division neighbors, we would no doubt be reading this morning how Mossad, the CIA and the Royal Family were all involved in the departure of Ruud Gullit from Stamford Bridge.

Ken Bates undoubtedly has the capacity to be as ruthless as all three — with the possible exception of the Royal Family, if Andrew Morton's book is to be believed — and it was Bates who was firmly in the frame as the author of the conspiracy that felled Gullit when the Dutchman was

interviewed by Desmond Lynam on Match of the Day. But did Bates act alone? Or were there others — Messrs Zola and Vialli perhaps — sniping from some grassy knoll in West London? The question first arose at the extraordinary press conference after his sacking, when Gullit gave after his dismissal. Gullit almost broke down when he revealed he had learned of his sacking via Teletext.

Call me cynical but my immediate reaction was to wonder what sort of deal Teletext had come up with for the plug. The Celtic people are clearly being left behind in the commercialisation business since earlier in the week Michael Owen had told Roh McCallary on Sky that he had found out he was in the England line-up through Teletext.

What is wrong, I thought, with these footballers, sitting in their gilded cages watching text messages all day? Don't they like Light Lunch, the 10 minutes of highlights of a semi-epileptic waster myself, that is a programme I can heartily recommend to

any footballer not busy with fashion shoots or shampoo commercials. But even Mal and Sue were eclipsed this week by Ruud, whose press conference, carried live on Sky and Radio 5 Live, was compelling.

On the radio it was afforded a status roughly between the State Opening of Parliament and a medium-sized natural disaster. Mike Ingram provided studio analysis while Steve Tongue was on the spot providing 'colour'.

"And any moment now we are expecting Ruud Gullit to walk into the room," was how Tongue kicked off his piece. Had Gullit shaken his head gruffly and said, "I must tell you I have received no such assurance from Mr Hutch-

On radio it was a roughing between the Opening of Parliament and a medium-sized r

insion, and thus we are in a state of war', it would have been entirely in keeping with the atmosphere of the broadcast.

Gallucci, though, is a far better communicator than Neville Chamberlain ever was and the story he told unfolded with stunning clarity. As an opening gambit in negotiations he had asked for a sum of money beyond the dreams of avarice, expecting Chelsea to come back with a counter offer of an amount that was simply obscene.

At that point they could settle on a compromise figure – say, the gross national product of a small South American country or Saddam Hussein's annual defence budget – shook hands on it

afforded a status in the State
ment and a
natural disaster

and Gullitt could happily have gone about his business: dropping internationals.

But Bates had sorted out an alternative strategy. When Gullitt asked for his king's ransom, Chelsea's manager-director Colin Hutchinson (Simpsons fans will recognise him as Sammers) to Ken Bates's Mr Burners told him to shove it. Gullitt had overplayed his hand. Simple as that.

In the freeline world it happens to most of us at some time or other, although the figures involved are usually somewhat less well upholstered. I was prepared to leave it at that, but the arguments rumbled on all weekend, reducing the FA Cup fifth round to the status of a sideshow.

On Hold The Back Page on Sky, Patrick Collins of the Mail on Sunday said he had an interesting sympathy for Gullitt. Plainly the greed he had been accused of arose by David Mellor. Asen to that. In a business as venal as the Premier League, sacking someone because of greed is

like getting rid of a dustman because you noticed he had dirt on his shoes.

Gullit himself was interviewed by Gerry Crooks on Football Focus, and then Sir Alex Ferguson and the Sir Alex Straight-lipped when caught on camera, but gave valuable ammunition to the Mister A side on the weekend.

Calling the phone-in shows when he revealed that Gullit's deal involved the club providing "peripherals", like a house and a car.

Faced with the question of "peripherals" to be paid for by somebody else I almost called in myself, but decided that I would rather respond to the letter than take refuge in the rather tedious thrills of women's curling or throw in my lot with that other creative performer with Ice, Danbert Nobacon.

Tuesday
 15h *Orchestra*: West India v England.
 14th day of the 3rd Test from Trinidad.
 (Sly Sports 2, 2-4pm and 4:30-6pm; High
 Lights *Orchestra* from Nagana
 7-8:30pm)
 16h *European* from Zam: BGCT, 7-8-8.45pm.
 17h *Football*: 2-4pm and 7-8:30pm)
 18h *Live Football*: Scotland Open, day
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803,

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1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442
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M (Others)	275	67.25 60.71
A Cottrell (Scot)	260	76.05 68.06
N Hopkins (Ind)		68.05 71.74
J Sanders	282	70.11 72.72
P O'Rourke		72.69 72.97
R Russell (Scot)		65.75 72.73

HAWAIIAN OPEN (Honorific)
 Open to all. 1st Round: 125-135, 135-145, 145-155, 155-165, 165-175, 175-185, 185-195, 195-205, 205-215, 215-225, 225-235, 235-245, 245-255, 255-265, 265-275, 275-285, 285-295, 295-305, 305-315, 315-325, 325-335, 335-345, 345-355, 355-365, 365-375, 375-385, 385-395, 395-405, 405-415, 415-425, 425-435, 435-445, 445-455, 455-465, 465-475, 475-485, 485-495, 495-505, 505-515, 515-525, 525-535, 535-545, 545-555, 555-565, 565-575, 575-585, 585-595, 595-605, 605-615, 615-625, 625-635, 635-645, 645-655, 655-665, 665-675, 675-685, 685-695, 695-705, 705-715, 715-725, 725-735, 735-745, 745-755, 755-765, 765-775, 775-785, 785-795, 795-805, 805-815, 815-825, 825-835, 835-845, 845-855, 855-865, 865-875, 875-885, 885-895, 895-905, 905-915, 915-925, 925-935, 935-945, 945-955, 955-965, 965-975, 975-985, 985-995, 995-1005, 1005-1015, 1015-1025, 1025-1035, 1035-1045, 1045-1055, 1055-1065, 1065-1075, 1075-1085, 1085-1095, 1095-1105, 1105-1115, 1115-1125, 1125-1135, 1135-1145, 1145-1155, 1155-1165, 1165-1175, 1175-1185, 1185-1195, 1195-1205, 1205-1215, 1215-1225, 1225-1235, 1235-1245, 1245-1255, 1255-1265, 1265-1275, 1275-1285, 1285-1295, 1295-1305, 1305-1315, 1315-1325, 1325-1335, 1335-1345, 1345-1355, 1355-1365, 1365-1375, 1375-1385, 1385-1395, 1395-1405, 1405-1415, 1415-1425, 1425-1435, 1435-1445, 1445-1455, 1455-1465, 1465-1475, 1475-1485, 1485-1495, 1495-1505, 1505-1515, 1515-1525, 1525-1535, 1535-1545, 1545-1555, 1555-1565, 1565-1575, 1575-1585, 1585-1595, 1595-1605, 1605-1615, 1615-1625, 1625-1635, 1635-1645, 1645-1655, 1655-1665, 1665-1675, 1677-1685, 1685-1695, 1695-1705, 1705-1715, 1715-1725, 1725-1735, 1735-1745, 1745-1755, 1755-1765, 1765-1775, 1775-1785, 1785-1795, 1795-1805, 1805-1815, 1815-1825, 1825-1835, 1835-1845, 1845-1855, 1855-1865, 1865-1875, 1877-1885, 1885-1895, 1895-1905, 1905-1915, 1915-1925, 1925-1935, 1935-1945, 1945-1955, 1955-1965, 1965-1975, 1977-1985, 1985-1995, 1995-2005, 2005-2015, 2015-2025, 2025-2035, 2035-2045, 2045-2055, 2055-2065, 2065-2075, 2077-2085, 2085-2095, 2095-2105, 2105-2115, 2115-2125, 2125-2135, 2135-2145, 2145-2155, 2155-2165, 2165-2175, 2177-2185, 2185-2195, 2195-2205, 2205-2215, 2215-2225, 2225-2235, 2235-2245, 2245-2255, 2255-2265, 2265-2275, 2277-2285, 2285-2295, 2295-2305, 2305-2315, 2315-2325, 2325-2335, 2335-2345, 2345-2355, 2355-2365, 2365-2375, 2377-2385, 2385-2395, 2395-2405, 2405-2415, 2415-2425, 2425-2435, 2435-2445, 2445-2455, 2455-2465, 2465-2475, 2477-2485, 2485-2495, 2495-2505, 2505-2515, 2515-2525, 2525-2535, 2535-2545, 2545-2555, 2555-2565, 2565-2575, 2577-2585, 2585-2595, 2595-2605, 2605-2615, 2615-2625, 2625-2635, 2635-2645, 2645-2655, 2655-2665, 2665-2675, 2677-2685, 2685-2695, 2695-2705, 2705-2715, 2715-2725, 2725-2735, 2735-2745, 2745-2755, 2755-2765, 2765-2775, 2777-2785, 2785-2795, 2795-2805, 2805-2815, 2815-2825, 2825-2835, 2835-2845, 2845-2855, 2855-2865, 2865-2875, 2877-2885, 2885-2895, 2895-2905, 2905-2915, 2915-2925, 2925-2935, 2935-2945, 2945-2955, 2955-2965, 2965-2975, 2977-2985, 2985-2995, 2995-3005, 3005-3015, 3015-3025, 3025-3035, 3035-3045, 3045-3055, 3055-3065, 3065-3075, 3077-3085, 3085-3095, 3095-3105, 3105-3115, 3115-3125, 3125-3135, 3135-3145, 3145-3155, 3155-3165, 3165-3175, 3177-3185, 3185-3195, 3195-3205, 3205-3215, 3215-3225, 3225-3235, 3235-3245, 3245-3255, 3255-3265, 3265-3275, 3277-3285, 3285-3295, 3295-3305, 3305-3315, 3315-3325, 3325-3335, 3335-3345, 3345-3355, 3355-3365, 3365-3375, 3377-3385, 3385-3395, 3395-3405, 3405-3415, 3415-3425, 3425-3435, 3435-3445, 3445-3455, 3455-3465, 3465-3475, 3477-3485, 3485-3495, 3495-3505, 3505-3515, 3515-3525, 3525-3535, 3535-3545, 3545-3555, 3555-3565, 3565-3575, 3577-3585, 3585-3595, 3595-3605, 3605-3615, 3615-3625, 3625-3635, 3635-3645, 3645-3655, 3655-3665, 3665-3675, 3677-3685, 3685-3695, 3695-3705, 3705-3715, 3715-3725, 3725-3735, 3735-3

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	P	W	D	L	A	Pts
Stirling	10	0	0	0	0	16
Strathclyde	10	0	0	0	0	16
Clifton	10	6	1	0	23	10
Edinburgh	10	5	2	0	30	20
Perth	10	5	1	0	20	10
Dumfries	10	2	1	0	18	20
Strathclyde	10	1	3	0	15	20
Stirling	10	1	1	0	14	32
First Round: Dundee 0 Leicester 1						
1 Bradford 1 Blackburn 0 Loughborough 5 2						
3 Chelmsford 1 Wimbledon 3 Center						
4 Plymouth 1 Doncaster 0 5 6 7 8 9						
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4.20

4.50

race

Newbridge	3 Runney	10
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T: Robinson 3, Murdock 2, Paul 2.
Ball, Clarke, Connolly, Gilmour, Haughton
Holgers, McCormack.
G: Farrell 10 Alt: 4,700

F Mobile (NZ) 70 68 70 67
A Gilson (Can) 09 67 71 56
277
S Appleby 06 06 72 71

24m Ross (US) 7.5T, 3M Greer (GB) 7.5T, 3M
4 52.80 (World rec), 2 G Llorens (Neth)
5 54.37, 2 A Saidi-Sot (Algeria) 5.06.31,
60m ~~Swedish~~ 1 T Jarrett (GB) 7.50; 2 D
Ross (US) 7.5T, 3 M Greer (GB) 7.5T, 3

Premier Division Clifton 2 Slough 4-
Doncaster 5 Trojans 2, Highlowen 1 Ipswich
3, Otton 1 Sutton Coldfield 3

MORING SKINING
 Individual K120: 1 K Funaki (Japan)
 K72.5pts: 2 J Seinenen (Fin) 26N 8, 3 M
 Harada (Japan) 256.3

1. 1.30. Götterdämmerung! Scotland A v
 France A (3 B. Goldenhagor).
 2. 2.30. In der Nacht! England v
 Wales (7.30. Waidmann! Scotland v
 France (1.30. Götterdämmerung)

Northern Premier League Pite v
 Ipswich (7.0), Lenco v Murrayfield (6.0).
 Southern Premier League Guild-
 ford v Peterborough (6.0); Tetford v Slough
 7.30).

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Sharpical delivers the goods on time

SOMETIMES the best laid plans work, sometimes they do not. On Saturday, everything went like clockwork to enable Gold Trophy at Newbury, whereas last month in the Ladbroke in Ireland there was a malfunction at the final hurdle.

Nicky Henderson first fitted blinkers to Sharpical to the Leopardstown race course, but his highly-talented gelding would come to the last cantering, but not sure whether he would go through with his effort on the run-in. Sure enough he came cruising, only to flatten the last and lose all momentum. He eventually finished sixth behind Graphic Equaliser.

At Newbury on faster ground and meeting Graphic Equaliser on 6th better terms, he easily gained his revenge. This time the race-plan worked, the blinkers worked and Mick Fitzgerald, the jockey, proved he was nifty.

Fitzgerald was told he was not to press the button after jumping the last until he had counted to 10 and so Kerawil on surfer with Sharpical poised on his flank until the final 100 yards.

When shaken up, Sharpical quickened to draw three lengths clear and bingo - his 19 owners, members of the Thoroughbred syndicate, were £57,000 better off.

Now they are after even bigger money in the £25,000 Smurfit Champion Hurdle next month, although Henderson is not convinced that the punishing Cheltenham track will suit Sharpical, who has been given a 25-1 quote by Hill's.

"He's in the Champion, and unless the ground is firm he'll probably run," said Henderson, "but whether he'll like coming up that hill I'm not sure - I think he's better on a sharper track. At home he's one of the most brilliant horses I've had, but on the racecourse he's a bit of a thinker. This will have done him a power of good - he's won without ever knowing he was in a race."

Kerawil, the runner-up, will definitely go for the Champion Hurdle, where he would meet Sharpical on 11th better terms. He, too, is a 25-1



Winter wonderland... Eventual winner Vision Of Spirit (second right) leads the runners in the St Moritz Grand Prix yesterday. ANDY METTLER/REUTERS

chance, the market being headed by Istabraq at 7-2, with Dato Star at 11-2, Shadow Leader 7-1 and Sanmartino 18-1. The latter is one of four David Nicholson entries in the Champion Hurdle, L'Opera and Zaraska being the others.

Zaraska was the Combe Novice Hurdle at Newbury convincingly enough from Bahaman Knight and re-

entered the Champion picture, although he is more likely to go for the Supreme Novice Hurdle.

Viking Flagship, star of the Nicholson stable, could cope with the fast ground when beaten into third by Ask Tom and Keadrastr in the Mitsubishi Shogun Chase. Sharpical, his trainer reports him none the worse and still on target for another

tilt at the Queen Mother Two-Mile Championship.

Ask Tom, a grand, old-fashioned sort of chaser, was runner-up in the Queen Mother last year and is 3-1 favourite followed by Klairon Davis at 4-1, One Man at 5-1 and Viking Flagship at 11-2 with Coral's Tom Tate. Ask Tom's trainer, in confidence, there is improvement in his nine-year-old, who has only just

shaken off a lung infection which laid him low for six weeks.

Richard Dunwoody took his tally on Irish soil this season to 44 with a double at Fairyhouse yesterday on Archibuteo and Tell The Nipper but left the course feeling unwell and will decide this morning whether to take up his rides at Plumpton today.

match hinged on the seventh end, when Britain conceded four after two poor shots from the skip Kirsty Hay.

In the men's final Canada were overwhelmed by Switzerland 9-3. Their skip Mike Harris missed everything going. If he had been passive dope smoking, it could not have been worse.

The bobsleigh was a tie. After four runs, the Canadians Pierre Lussiers and Dave MacEachern and the Italians Günther Graber and Antonio Tartaglia shared an aggregate time of 3min 37.24sec.

In a race that took place in the middle of the night because the track was melting during the day, the Italian bobs, driven by Eugenio Monti, recorded the same time as Horst Floth's German bobs. Gold went to the 40-year-old Monti because he had recorded the fastest single run.

It was Masahiko Harada's day, finally. After taking responsibility for costing Japan gold in the 1994 Olympic team slalom, the 29-year-old from Sapporo threw away another opportunity for gold with a poor second jump in the K20 event on Wednesday. Harada got his medal, though, because the 1994 Olympic team slalom, the 29-year-old from Sapporo threw away another opportunity for gold with a poor second jump in the K20 event on Wednesday.

Cousins ready to quit over lack of support

Pete Nichols in Nagano sees the irate Briton finish a disappointing sixth

STEVEN COUSINS could have done better than sixth place in Saturday's men's figure skating final. A crunching fall on his second jump, a triple Axel went into his combination, put the brakes on a programme that had threatened to see him the first in the men's figure skating to perform the quad Salchow in competition.

Cousins' show was still the finest British performance by an individual skater at this level since his unrelated namesake Robin Cousins won gold at Lake Placid in 1980. But irate at the lack of support from the National Ice Skating Association, Cousins may retire from the Olympic branch of the sport at just 25. "They must either support me or I turn pro," he said. "It's not a financial matter, just positive reinforcement."

After yesterday's second stage of the ice dance competition, the original dance, the leaders were Pasha Grishuk and Yevgeny Platov, whom Torville and Dean had run so close in Lillehammer. If they win today, it will be their 22nd consecutive international victory. This time, they have no British opposition.

There was no medal after all for Britain's women curlers. Having expended their last slits on Saturday against the formidable Canadians, losing by the slimmest of a broom handle on the last end, there was nothing left for the bronze-medal play-off against Sweden. The

match hinged on the seventh end, when Britain conceded four after two poor shots from the skip Kirsty Hay.

In the men's final Canada were overwhelmed by Switzerland 9-3. Their skip Mike Harris missed everything going. If he had been passive dope smoking, it could not have been worse.

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His second leap was so long that it went off the scale. Unable to measure it electronically, the organisers went to the television graphics department to calibrate the length. It was the longest ever on the course at 136m. But because he trailed other jumpers on his first try it was not enough for gold - that went to his team-mate Kazuyoshi Takaki, but enough for copious tears from Harada.

Plumpton runners and riders

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Hereford Jackpot card with form guide

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14 SPORTS NEWS

The Guardian Monday February 16 1998

FA Cup fifth round and Premiership

Arsenal (0) 0 **Aston Villa** (0) 0
Crystal Palace (0) 0 **Coventry City** (0) 1

Man Utd	25	10	2	1	33	6	3	4	19	13	33	50
Liverpool	26	9	1	4	28	13	4	6	2	16	12	46
Chelsea	25	8	2	1	22	8	6	1	7	30	19	25
Blackburn	25	8	3	2	30	15	4	6	2	14	12	45
Arsenal	24	9	2	2	28	9	3	6	2	16	17	44
Derby	26	9	3	1	25	8	3	3	7	16	24	42
Leeds	25	5	3	4	17	14	6	2	5	17	14	6
West Ham	25	9	1	1	26	8	3	1	10	11	27	38
Leicester	26	4	7	3	14	11	5	3	4	15	12	6
Newcastle	25	6	3	5	15	15	3	2	6	10	15	-5
Southampton	25	7	1	4	19	14	2	3	8	10	21	-6
Sheff Wed	26	6	4	4	24	22	2	3	7	16	29	-11
Coventry	25	5	7	1	20	14	2	2	8	9	20	-5
Aston Villa	25	5	3	4	17	18	3	3	7	10	18	-7
Wimbledon	24	3	3	6	12	16	4	5	3	13	11	-2
Everton	26	5	2	5	18	18	2	5	7	13	21	-8
Tottenham	26	5	4	4	14	16	2	2	9	11	26	-17
Crystal Palace	25	0	4	8	7	23	5	4	4	14	14	-16
Bolton	25	3	7	2	10	12	4	4	8	12	29	-19
Barnsley	25	4	3	5	14	22	2	1	10	8	39	-39

Leeds United (2) 3 **Manchester Utd** (1) 1
Birmingham City (0) 2 **Barnsley** (1) 1

Man Utd	25	10	2	1	33	6	3	4	19	13	33	50
Liverpool	26	9	1	4	28	13	4	6	2	16	12	46
Chelsea	25	8	2	1	22	8	6	1	7	30	19	25
Blackburn	25	8	3	2	30	15	4	6	2	14	12	45
Arsenal	24	9	2	2	28	9	3	6	2	16	17	44
Derby	26	9	3	1	25	8	3	3	7	16	24	42
Leeds	25	5	3	4	17	14	6	2	5	17	14	6
West Ham	25	9	1	1	26	8	3	1	10	11	27	38
Leicester	26	4	7	3	14	11	5	3	4	15	12	6
Newcastle	25	6	3	5	15	15	3	2	6	10	15	-5
Southampton	25	7	1	4	19	14	2	3	8	10	21	-6
Sheff Wed	26	6	4	4	24	22	2	3	7	16	29	-11
Coventry	25	5	7	1	20	14	2	2	8	9	20	-5
Aston Villa	25	5	3	4	17	18	3	3	7	10	18	-7
Wimbledon	24	3	3	6	12	16	4	5	3	13	11	-2
Everton	26	5	2	5	18	18	2	5	7	13	21	-8
Tottenham	26	5	4	4	14	16	2	2	9	11	26	-17
Crystal Palace	25	0	4	8	7	23	5	4	4	14	14	-16
Bolton	25	3	7	2	10	12	4	4	8	12	29	-19
Barnsley	25	4	3	5	14	22	2	1	10	8	39	-39

Newcastle United (1) 1 **West Ham United** (2) 2
Tranmere Rovers (0) 0 **Blackburn Rovers** (1) 2

Man Utd	25	10	2	1	33	6	3	4	19	13	33	50
Liverpool	26	9	1	4	28	13	4	6	2	16	12	46
Chelsea	25	8	2	1	22	8	6	1	7	30	19	25
Blackburn	25	8	3	2	30	15	4	6	2	14	12	45
Arsenal	24	9	2	2	28	9	3	6	2	16	17	44
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Leeds	25	5	3	4	17	14	6	2	5	17	14	6
West Ham	25	9	1	1	26	8	3	1	10	11	27	38
Leicester	26	4	7	3	14	11	5	3	4	15	12	6
Newcastle	25	6	3	5	15	15	3	2	6	10	15	-5
Southampton	25	7	1	4	19	14	2	3	8	10	21	-6
Sheff Wed	26	6	4	4	24	22	2	3	7	16	29	-11
Coventry	25	5	7	1	20	14	2	2	8	9	20	-5
Aston Villa	25	5	3	4	17	18	3	3	7	10	18	-7
Wimbledon	24	3	3	6	12	16	4	5	3	13	11	-2
Everton	26	5	2	5	18	18	2	5	7	13	21	-8
Tottenham	26	5	4	4	14	16	2	2	9	11	26	-17
Crystal Palace	25	0	4	8	7	23	5	4	4	14	14	-16
Bolton	25	3	7	2	10	12	4	4	8	12	29	-19
Barnsley	25	4	3	5	14	22	2	1	10	8	39	-39

Wimbledon (1) 1 **Everton** (0) 1
Wolverhampton (0) 1 **Derby County** (1) 2

Man Utd	25	10	2	1	33	6	3	4	19	13	33	50
Liverpool	26	9	1	4	28	13	4	6	2	16	12	46
Chelsea	25	8	2	1	22	8	6	1	7	30	19	25
Blackburn	25	8	3	2	30	15	4	6	2	14	12	45
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Leeds	25	5	3	4	17	14	6	2	5	17	14	6
West Ham	25	9	1	1	26	8	3	1	10	11	27	38
Leicester	26	4	7	3	14	11	5	3	4	15	12	6
Newcastle	25	6	3	5	15	15	3	2	6	10	15	-5
Southampton	25	7	1	4	19	14	2	3	8	10	21	-6
Sheff Wed	26	6	4	4	24	22	2	3	7	16	29	-11
Coventry	25	5	7	1	20	14	2	2	8	9	20	-5
Aston Villa	25	5	3	4	17	18	3	3	7	10	18	-7
Wimbledon	24	3	3	6	12	16	4	5	3	13	11	-2
Everton	26	5	2	5	18	18	2	5	7	13	21	-8
Tottenham	26	5	4	4	14	16	2	2	9	11	26	-17
Crystal Palace	25	0	4	8	7	23	5	4	4	14	14	-16
Bolton	25	3	7	2	10	12	4	4	8	12	29	-19
Barnsley	25	4	3	5	14	22	2	1	10	8	39	-39

Sheffield Wed (1) 3 **Tottenham Hotspur** (0) 1
Liverpool (1) 3 **Leicester City** (1) 1

Man Utd	25	10	2	1	33	6	3	4	19	13	33	50
Liverpool	26	9	1	4	28	13	4	6	2	16	12	46
Chelsea	25	8	2	1	22	8	6	1	7	30	19	25
Blackburn	25	8	3	2	30	15	4	6	2	14	12	45
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Leeds	25	5	3	4	17	14	6	2	5	17	14	6
West Ham	25	9	1	1	26	8	3	1	10	11	27	38
Leicester	26	4	7	3	14	11	5	3	4	15	12	6
Newcastle	25	6	3	5	15	15	3	2	6	10	15	-5
Southampton	25	7	1	4	19	14	2	3	8	10	21	-6
Sheff Wed	26	6	4	4	24	22	2	3	7	16	29	-11
Coventry	25	5	7	1	20	14	2	2	8	9	20	-5
Aston Villa	25	5	3	4	17	18	3	3	7	10	18	-7
Wimbledon	24	3	3	6	12	16	4	5	3	13	11	-2
Everton	26	5	2	5	18	18	2	5	7	13	21	-8
Tottenham	26	5	4	4	14	16	2	2	9	11	26	-17
Crystal Palace	25	0	4	8	7	23	5	4	4	14	14	-16
Bolton	25	3	7	2	10	12	4	4	8	12	29	-19
Barnsley	25	4	3	5	14	22	2	1	10	8	39	-39

Sheff Wed (1) 3 **Tottenham Hotspur** (0) 1
Liverpool (1) 3 **Leicester City** (1) 1

Man Utd	25	10	2	1	33	6	3	4	19	13	33	50
Liverpool	26	9	1	4	28	13	4	6	2	16	12	46
Chelsea	25	8	2	1	22	8	6	1	7	30	19	25
Blackburn	25	8	3	2	30	15	4	6	2	14	12	45
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Leeds	25	5	3	4	17	14	6	2	5	17	14	6
West Ham	25	9	1	1	26	8	3	1	10	11	27	38
Leicester	26	4	7	3	14	11	5	3	4	15	12	6
Newcastle	25	6	3	5	15	15	3	2	6	10	15	-5
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Wimbledon	24	3	3	6	12	16	4	5	3	13	11	-2
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Crystal Palace	25	0	4	8	7	23	5	4	4	14	14	-16
Bolton	25	3	7	2	10	12	4	4	8	12	29	-19
Barnsley	25	4	3	5	14	22	2	1	10	8	39	-39

Sheff Wed (1) 3 **Tottenham Hotspur** (0) 1
Liverpool (1) 3 **Leicester City** (1) 1

FA Carling Premiership

	P	W	D	L	A	W	D	L	F	A	GO	Pts
Man Utd	25	10	2	1	33	6	5	3	4	19	13	33
Liverpool	26	9	1	4	28	13	4	6	2	16	12	19
Chelsea	25	8	2	1	22	8	6	1	7	30	19	25
Blackburn	25	8	3	2	30	15	4	6	2	14	12	17
Arsenal	24	9	2	2	28	9	3	6	2	16	17	18
Derby	26	9	3	1	25	8	3	3	7	16	24	9
Leeds	25	5	3	4	17	14	6	2	5	17	14	6
West Ham	25	9	1	1	26	8	3	1	10	11	27	2
Leicester	26	4	7	3	14	11	5	3	4	15	12	6
Newcastle	25	6	3	5	15	15	3	2	6	10	15	-5
Southampton	25	7	1	4	19	14	2	3	8	10	21	-6
Sheff Wed	26	6	4	4	24	22	2	3	7	16	29	-11
Coventry	25	5	7	1	20	14	2	2	8	9	20	-5
Aston Villa	25	5	3	4	17	18	3	3	7	10	18	-7
Wimbledon	24	3	3	6	12	16	4	5	3	13	11	-2
Everton	26	5	2	5	18	18	2	5	7	13	21	-8
Tottenham	26	5	4	4	14	16	2	2	9	11	26	-17
Crystal Palace	25	0	4	8	7	23	5	4	4	14	14	-16
Bolton	25	3	7	2	10	12	1	4	8	12	29	-19
Barnsley	25	4	3	5	14	22	2	1	10	8	39	-39

FA Cup fifth round

Arsenal 0, Crystal Palace 0

Arsenal find Palace gates shut tight

David Lacey

THE Palace gates were locked against Arsenal yesterday and nobody could find the key. Solid, disciplined defending by Steve Coppell's team forced a scoreless draw at Selhurst Park on Wednesday week.

On the evidence of Crystal Palace's barren form at Selhurst in the Premiership this season Arsenal will still fancy their chances of a quarter-final at home to Blackburn or West Ham. But in the FA Cup, where they have yet to concede a goal, Palace have already won twice at home.

They held Arsenal there in a goalless draw last October and for much the same reasons. Yesterday Hermann Hreidarsson, Palace's Icelandic centre-back, re-created himself to Dennis Bergkamp and denied the Dutchman space.

When Bergkamp is held, and Hreidarsson often did so quite literally, Arsenal find it difficult to function. While they played with patience, they lacked the perception to create anything of significance through the middle.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, grumbled mildly about the number of times Hreidarsson tripped his man illegally. "We will have to buy Bergkamp an extra shirt," he said. "The referees in this country are not used to man-for-man marking and when it happens they don't know when to whistle."

"Bergkamp backs in a lot," retorted Coppell, "and he's as strong as an ox. The natural reaction is to shove back but Hermann stood his ground. It was a case of being more sinning against than sinning."

Arsenal's immediate worry is a sudden shortage of centre-backs. With Martin Keown still injured and Tony Adams starting a two-match suspension, they lost Steve Bould midway through the second half after he had broken a thumb falling awkwardly in a tackle with Bruce Dyer. Adams will be available at Chelsea on Wednesday, when Arsenal defend a 2-1 lead in the second leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals, but will miss the Premiership fixture at home to Palace on



Much ado about nothing... the Arsenal striker Stephen Hughes is relieved of the ball by Valerien Ismael while Simon Rodger lurks behind

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Saturday, returning for the Selhurst replay. This was another of those days when Martin Bodenham's refereeing smacked of two of the wise monkeys rolled into one. He heard no evil and saw no evil.

Four minutes before half-time a keenly angled lob from Andy Roberts caught Arsenal moving up too late to catch

Jamie Fullarton offside as he broke clear on the right. Alex Manning, Arsenal's Austrian goalkeeper who is deputising for the injured David Seaman, is inclined to rush out where fools fear to tread and he took Fullarton's legs away inside the area with such force that both players ended up outside the line. Bodenham booked Man-

ninger and gave Palace nothing more than a free-kick. A week earlier, in the league match against Chelsea at Highbury, Bould had stayed on the pitch after an early professional foul on Gianluca Vialli. Arsenal should start buying tickets in the National Lottery.

Just before the hour Stephen Hughes was brought down by Roberts in the Palace penalty area but this time Bodenham decided no offence had been committed. Some might have felt that this evened things up, but the earlier decision was arguably more crucial to the outcome.

From time to time Palace managed to break away but Tomas Brodin, a portly slugsish version of the player he used to be, did not have the

pace to worry Arsenal. Bruce Dyer's influence was largely peripheral and Dean Gordon kept falling offside.

Bould came as close as any Arsenal player to scoring when he failed to follow up in time after Kevin Miller had parried a 20-yard drive from Bergkamp on the half-hour. Overmars, who will miss the replay because he will be in

Leeds United 3, Birmingham City 2

Hasselbaink restores hot-shot reputation

Mark Redding

THE star system is out something George Graham likes to do. But to Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink he has a striker to shine alongside any in the Premiership firmament.

The Surinamese centre-forward cannot stay out of the limelight even if he wants to, which is doubtful. The previous weekend he had made

the headlines for missing a last-minute penalty at Leicester that cost his side the game. But on Saturday he more than made up for that by scoring two goals, the second three minutes from time when it seemed that Birmingham City were about to earn the replay their valiant fightback demanded.

As his dark blue Ford Explorer, number plate JFI, Road, he shared his relief at having overcome the Filbert

Street embarrassment that had threatened to cast a shadow over his hot-shot reputation. "I'm very happy for my team-mates that I could be there for them today," he said.

More importantly for the £2 million man, it puts his late run for the Dutch World Cup squad back on track. Not that he was in a hurry to admit it: his manager likes his players to be focused solely on the club's ambition.

"I don't think about it. I

work for Leeds and I think about Leeds," Hasselbaink promised unequivocally. Theo he added hastily: "But if the World Cup chance comes I'll take it with 10 hands." So that clears that one up.

Graham, as usual, was not about to let his shooting star disappear over the horizon without some reminder of gravity's pull. "He started the season well, but I thought he hadn't come to terms with the hard work and the physical aspect of the English game."

However, the Scot admitted grudgingly, "In the last two months he has been superb." Initially it seemed that this tie would be less appetising than the Squares bars being given away by Kellogg's ropes outside the ground. ("Tight, crispy grains of toasted rice covered in chewy melted marshmallow," it can be revealed.)

When Rod Wallace shot Leeds ahead after only five minutes with his 12th goal of the season and Hasselbaink

followed suit in the 28th minute, the tie seemed to be dead and buried. But in the second half Birmingham, weakened by the absence of their top scorer Paul Furlong through suspension, rolled in exhilarating fashion with a Gary Ablett header and a 30-yard bullet from Peter Ndlovu.

The game was at that point drifting away from Leeds but in the 87th minute Bruno Ribeiro curled in a free-kick from the right, Hasselbaink

woo an off-the-ball wrestling match with Joo McCarthy and glanced a header into the bottom corner of the net for his 14th goal of the season.

The Blues manager Trevor Francis, holding up his hands in the qualified admiration of one great striker for another, said: "He punched McCarthy in the face and stamped on his toe to get the space to score in, but he did what he felt was necessary to score a goal and it is all part of the game."

Premiership: Sheffield Wednesday 3, Liverpool 3

Owen puts spring in Evans gait

George Caulkin

OVER the course of his brief but stellar career, Hillsborough has rapidly emerged as a venue of some significance for young Michael Owen.

It was there that he made his full debut at the age of 17, scoring the winning goal in a 1-0 victory over Liverpool in the Champions League. It was there, too, on Saturday that he notched his first league hat-trick when Liverpool might just have self-destructed within sight of the title.

That, at first glance, will appear a harsh conclusion to draw from a match in which Owen, the fastest thing on grass apart from

Canadian snowboarders, heeded his side back from the precipice at 1-0 and then 3-1 down. But although they played their part to the full Wednesday found themselves hanging on by their finger-tips at the end.

The Liverpool manager Roy Evans got the balance just about right. "A great game," he said, praising Wednesday's predatory instincts and his own team's tenacity. When push comes to shove, however, Evans knows that "27 or 28 attempts on goal" ought to be enough to brush aside even the most resolute of opposition.

For a moment, when the ball was at the feet of Liverpool's nascent England striker with the final whis-

tle imminent, a fairy-tale ending looked likely. Unfortunately the striker in question was Robbie Fowler, and the resulting shot struck the goalkeeper and dribbled to safety.

This, though, is not simply another story of Owen's irrepressible riss and Fowler's irreversible fall. The former turned markers with the pace of a gazelle, as in the 28th minute when he ran on to Steve McManis' man's precise through-ball to score, and hit his shots with a rhino's power; so would it be wrong to point out the facets that were lacking? With true, Liverpool-like perfectionism Evans thought not. "He got three but could have had two more. He could have made a couple too."

Fowler, meanwhile, kept plugging gamely away without much luck. As well as his late miss he set up Paul Ince for what seemed a certain goal until Des Walker intervened, saw a well-struck shot deflected, wildly sliced another and hit the far post in the breathless ballyhoo before Owen's second.

That Wednesday held firm was largely because of a goalkeeper who maintained his concentration and a committed centre-half. True, Kevin Pressman and Walker also allowed three goals to pass them by, but they were faced with an unstoppable force.

Liverpool, by contrast, were faced merely with their own shortcomings, although Wednesday's opener



Owen... hit hat-trick

— a glorious long ball from Andy Hinchcliffe chipped into the net by Benito Carrasco — would have flummoxed anyone.

Not so the other two. In the 62nd minute poor marking allowed Paolo Di Canio to meet Ian Nolan's centre with a successful glancing header and six minutes later a fumbled clearance by David James left Hinchcliffe with an easy finish.

Everton 1, Derby County 2

Leopards and spots recalled as Ferguson sees red again

Stephen Bierley

TO LOSE one striker was unfortunate; to lose two was brainless. And so several weeks of diligent and methodical work by Everton were undone by the stroke of Duncan Ferguson's elbow to Paulo Wanchope's throat.

Howard Kendall, who can deflect criticism with a politician's sleight of word, attempted to excuse the brutal by claiming that the Scot was held and that the Costa Rican made a meal of matters. "That's a flat part of the pitch and we did not need it rolling," he said.

These words, no doubt, will be sweet music to those Everton fans who unconsciously booed Wanchope for the rest of the match. Goodison used to be renowned for its fair-minded attitude and its ready approval of skill over brawn. Times have changed.

It was also a bad day for those who believe that a little added responsibility can work wonders for a man's character. Ferguson, never a stranger to a rush of red, was given the team captaincy in late December and immediately responded with a hat-trick.

Phrases such as "changed man" and words like "mature" began to echo around Everton's Bellefield training ground. This week the talk will be of leopards and spots. Having taken eight points from their past four matches there was an understandable air of optimism at Goodison on Saturday, the trio of Nick

Barnby, Michael Madar and Ferguson, rightly having been singled out for particular praise. Barnby did not start the match and before it had barely begun Madar and Ferguson had both gone.

Madar, who had just completed his first full week's in-fury-free training since joining the club in January, was clattered in the back and there was further bad news for Kendall when Tony Grant finished on crutches.

The cigar-smoking Jim Smith resembles an old-fashioned ringmaster in charge of a multi-national circus. It still remains something of a mystery as to how this disparate band has managed to do so well, but Derby's understated success, a tribute to Smith's managerial skills, has been one of the season's delights.

The club has not appeared in Europe, discounting the Anglo-Italian tournament, since the days of Dave Mackay more than 20 years ago. Their chances of a return seem rather good, although on occasions they make life difficult.

Igor Stimac's header from an acute angle was badly misjudged by Thomas Myrte as Derby quickly capitalised on Ferguson's 16th-minute departure, and Wanchope's early second-half goal, nicely worked by Stefano Eranio and Deao Sturridge, was seemingly the coup d'etoupe.

Then, five minutes from time, Claus Thomsen scored for Everton and the sight of the heads of Smith and Kendall flashing in the sunshine as they leaped from their benches was almost dazzling.

Aston Villa 0
Coventry City 1

More like singing Sky Blues

Jeremy Alexander hears the Coventry chorus after their first win at Villa Park

WEMBLEY would give a lot for weather like Saturday's on May 16. On current showing it would not mind Coventry too for the Cup final. The Sky Blues are playing on cloud nine, Villa simply under a cloud — which is why Coventry, at the 27th attempt, woo at Villa Park for the first time. It has taken 63 years. Just now they believe in themselves more than hoodoos.

Coventry's Cup record since they won it in 1987 has also been wretched. They are normally out before the crocuses let alone daffodils. This will be their first quarter-final since, and they have reached it with first-time victories over Liverpool, Derby and Villa, the first and last of them away — none of this two bites at the cherry.

The Eton Boating Song is their traditional signature tune and they all pulled together for Gordon Strachan, the touchline cox whose passion brought a referee's rebuke for overstepping his territory. By contrast Brian Little stood pensively and inflexible in his winter waterproofs — and Savo Milosevic was not in the vicinity.

The chairman Doug Ellis said yesterday his door is open to the discontented Yugoslav, who has not played for a month. Little could do with peacemaking, then his industry and polish without the spit. Without Dwight Yorke, he was virtually obliged to stick with Stan Collymore, not that he has shown signs of dropping him anyway.

What started as faith in his ability to get the best from a wayward talent is looking like self-defeating obstinacy. In 20 starts Collymore, all £7 million of Villa's record buy, has scored five goals, a significant. An advert for Villa's sponsors shows him standing over a PC with the legend "The quietest in the Premiership".

His unconcern at losing possession and almost dis-ant and ultimately fatal. After 70 minutes his loose first touch set Coventry off again on a move which ended with George Boateng — a snip at £250,000 — cutting in from the right past Alan Wright and Gareth Southgate and Ugo Ehiogu before drawing another elastic save from Mark Bosnich.

The ball ran to Vitor Molodtsov, Coventry's record buy at £254 million, who tapped his first City goal.

Villa could have been four down by then, three to Trond Solvetvik. Bosnich denied him with a half-scorpion, then Julian Joachim cleared off the line. Solvetvik and Boateng almost dis-ant and ultimately fatal. After 70 minutes his loose first touch set Coventry off again on a move which ended with George Boateng — a snip at £250,000 — cutting in from the right past Alan Wright and Gareth Southgate and Ugo Ehiogu before drawing another elastic save from Mark Bosnich.

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In World Cup terms the Romanian will have noted how Southgate was discomfited by Dublin in the air and Darren Huckerby's pace. Villa, newly aligned in 4-4-2, could have used a sweeper but Little is thinking rigidly under pressure. The team reflected their boss, as Coventry did cheer the one predictable, the other perky.

Southgate said: "When you are going through a bad time, you look at each other and pick things up together." They got no further than the looking. Coventry, meanwhile, can look to Wembley and the hope of jolly Boateng weather.

EUROPEAN QUARTER FINALS

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The Guardian Sport

Monday February 16 1998

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Fraser strikes again but West Indies look likelier winners

Third Test: West Indies v England, third day

Adams makes England toil

Mike Selvey in Port of Spain sees a pair
wrest the initiative away from Atherton

HOPE springs eternal but after a fightback of some determination the spectre of 1994, Curtly Ambrose and defeat were hovering over England here yesterday afternoon. Returning on 71 for two in their second innings, an intense first session saw West Indies lose three more wickets for the addition of 49 runs, including the key one of Brian Lara for 47. The situation was then retrieved by the application — and some good fortune — of Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Jimmy Adams with a sixth-wicket partnership of 56 that in all probability took the game beyond England's reach.

Defining moments are often hard to identify, but when after lunch Chanderpaul hammered the first ball of a new spell from Dean Headley to the extra-cover boundary

delivery with the new ball to extra-cover. Fraser and Headley had each taken four wickets; Adams had added 30 for the ninth wicket with Nixon McLean as West Indies were finally all out in an hour after tea for 210, leaving England 225 to win and 27 of the most testing overs imaginable to face.

Saturday's flabby capitulation with the bat, and Andy Caddick's pathetic offering with the new ball at a time when England really needed to come out punching, ranks with some of the poorer performances of recent times. This is not a blameless pitch, and has become increasingly untrustworthy in bounce as the match has gone on, but the scores of neither side offer a true reflection of its worth. Yet nobody — and Lara has come closest — has been able to provide the innings of stature that could transform the match and put things in a truer perspective.

For England, only the Surrey trio of Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe and Mark Butcher looked anything like comfortable, but having battled away to ward off the predatory fast bowling, they were each guilty of the soft dismissal.

Stewart and Thorpe were both out attempting to force Carl Hooper's off-spin, the latter for the second time in the series. It can only be a relaxation of concentration after the pounding of the pace men rather than Hooper's bowling. Butcher has thrown himself into the game with the willingness of someone who has been released from confinement and he battled with some confidence for two hours. But he too succumbed to Lara, releasing the pressure valve, chipping a gentle return catch to Adams.

With West Indies starting the day with an overnight lead of 85 and Lara threatening, it was, even at this stage of the series, England's last throw of the dice. If West Indies ran away in the morning session, then there would be no way back in this match, or the series. It would be a test of character.

Atherton put his faith in Fraser and Headley, both of whom had kept things in check during the final session on Saturday; they responded superbly. Even by his own standards, Fraser cannot have anticipated the level of success he has enjoyed so far. But his running in with a sense of purpose and aggression putting West Indies batsmen under constant pressure.

No one, Lara included, has been comfortable under his probing examination, and after the nightwatchman Kenyon Benjamin had top-edged an ambitious hook to Jack Russell, Fraser, to his undisguised joy, took the most prized wicket of all for the fourth time in the series.

Lara had been pinned down by Fraser's middle-and-off line, and now, squaring up, he received a ball which just



One that got away... Shivnarine Chanderpaul makes his ground as Jack Russell pursues

PHOTOGRAPH: REBECCA NADEN

kept low enough for Darryll Hair to give him out lbw. Lara had added three more boundaries, two of them in an over from Headley, to the four he had hit the previous evening.

Headley, meanwhile, was in the middle of his best spell of the series and he got his reward when Hooper, who had spent almost an hour in accumulating five uncomfortable runs, went back and might well have walked so plumb was the lbw decision. With West Indies 102 for five, a lead of 116, England were still in the game.

Chanderpaul and Adams, both left-handed but their back foot and front foot styles a complete contrast, then played with great determina-

tion. Twice, though, Chanderpaul was fortunate to escape, surviving a close call on a run out when 22 and later an lbw decision which seemed desperately close when he padded up to Phil Tufnell and was hit on the back leg.

With match and probably series hanging on the first two sessions, Atherton had placed most of his faith in Fraser and Headley, a decision that seemed justified when Caddick, recalled immediately after lunch instead of Headley, was cluttered for 11 in his only over of the briefest of spells. Despite his five wickets in the first innings, Caddick cuts a sorry figure and, although he returned later to have McLean caught by Stewart at second slip, he will be

fortunate to survive to the next Test.

Headley on the other hand, had found his rhythm and, just as Chanderpaul and Adams were beginning to play with more freedom as the England effort took its toll, he found inspiration as Chanderpaul flicked outside off stump and was caught by the tumbling Russell.

Three balls later and David Williams, hero of the second Test, was made to realise the perversity of cricket when he was leg before to a reverse-swinging yorker to complete a pair of noughts. When Ambrose had his offstump pegged back first ball, Headley, the hat-trick specialist, was looking for another. But McLean survived.

FA Cup, fifth round

Manchester United 1, Barnsley 1

Watson the saviour for Barnsley's battlers

Martin Thorpe

THE FA Cup's reputation as the greatest club cup competition in the world has largely been fuelled by the enduring spirit of the underdog. Yesterday at Old Trafford little, bottom-of-the-Premiership Barnsley, while not pulling off another giant-killing to add to the well-stocked record books, did produce a performance to match the heroic tradition of this tournament.

So often battered and bewildered by their first league season among the nation's elite, the Yorkshire side are fast learning how to cope with the rarefied atmosphere. In October Barnsley were famously trounced 7-0 by Manchester United but yesterday, on the back of a run of two defeats in nine games, they battled and passed their way to within a turned-down penalty kick of victory.

Despite missing Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt through suspension, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer with a virus and Andy Cole with injury, the league leaders pummelled David Watson's goal.

For United, a draw was almost worse than defeat. The last thing they need is a replay in a crowded fixture list. If United do still entertain hopes of a unique trophy then they must cope with Wednesday and weekend games for the next five weeks, including league matches at Aston Villa on Wednesday and at home to Derby on Saturday, this cup replay the following Wednesday, a league visit to Chelsea the next Saturday, then the Champions League quarter-final in Monaco four days later.

The studied, patient approach United adopt that evening will be in stark contrast to the fast and furious football of yesterday afternoon, a vibrant occasion boosted by 8,000 noisy Barnsley fans.

United's record of just four points out of 15 in the league must have increased the visitors' hopes of revenge for their

red October. Early on that optimism was well-founded as Barnsley harried United on the ball with a demonic enthusiasm and threatened more, but the champions, despite an odd midfield of Phil Neville, Ronny Johnsen and Brian McClair in a 4-3-3 formation, slowly found some attacking rhythm. Adrian Moses's tackle denied Johnsen after 23 minutes and four minutes later McClair should have scored after being set up by Ryan Giggs, but somehow hit the post.

Another typical Giggs backheel set up Johnsen again but Watson saved well. And then the inexplicable happened. Gary Pallister played an innocuous pass-back to Peter Schmeichel and the keeper, under no pressure, sliced his clearance into the path of John Hendrie, who calmly put the underdogs ahead.

The lead lasted just four minutes as the move of the game saw United finally find the net. A Giggs chest-down took the ball past Matty Appleby and another flick inside Teddy Sheringham, who, running through at pace, slotted the ball past Watson.

Two minutes later Barnsley so nearly re-took the lead, but Schmeichel, making amends, blocked Ashley Ward's goal-bound shot with an outstretched leg.

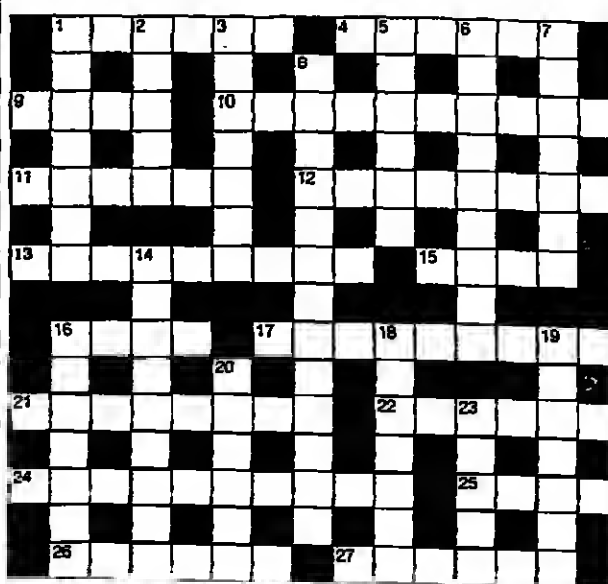
David Beckham came off the bench at half-time and immediately United resumed their quest for another goal. In between all this the promising young full-back Michael Clegg, making his first start, produced a vital saving tackle to deny Hendrie as Barnsley continued to threaten on the break.

Seven minutes from time came the penalty incident. Just as the substitute Andy Liddell was about to shoot Gary Neville dived in with a tackle that looked a certain penalty. The referee Mike Riley said no; television replays said yes.

"It was a blatant penalty," said the Barnsley manager Danny Wilson afterwards. "The decision was wrong and really cost us the tie."

Guardian Crossword No 21,199

Set by Rufus

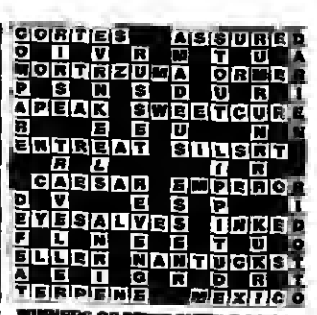


Across

- 1 Officer's quarters housing retired soldiers (6)
- 4 Crew man showing little variation in stroke (6)
- 9 Stake boat (4)
- 10 Make light of Aunt Millie's change of name (10)
- 11 Plastered and pebble-dashed? (6)
- 12 It pushes up water rates in a re-organisation (6)
- 13 Inward-looking (5-4)
- 15 Hide Zip (4)
- 16 Notice a large number appear (4)
- 17 Where players have "their exits and their entrances" (5,4)
- 21 He appreciates the exquisite tea these provide (6)
- 22 Played piano in capitals of Italy and Denmark (6)
- 24 Blues associated with the early 1930s (10)
- 25 Period of time may be spring — but not winter (4)
- 26 Makes off-peak calls in Switzerland (6)
- 27 Repeatedly sit and rest (6)

Down

- 1 They drew the line at nothing here (7)
- 2 First job-finder for the unemployed (5)
- 3 Key question for the score-maker (7)
- 5 Politician in new test case appeals (6)
- 6 Pub favoured by college principal (5,4)
- 7 What Luther refused to do about a religious treatise (7)



WORDS OF PUZZLE 21,199
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Pat Anderson of Carnoustie, Angus; R Armstrong of Morpeth, Northumberland; D Pickard of South Croydon, Surrey; Mrs M I Blackburn of Morecambe, Lancs; and Ian Britain of Dorchester, Dorset. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

- 8 Dispelled suspicion so that everyone could breathe more easily (7,3,3)
- 14 Yet civilians lived such a life in the war (6)
- 18 View from the flats (7)
- 19 Form of eroding where the Dordogne and Garonne rivers meet (7)
- 19 Above and just behind the clock (7)
- 20 Container ship? (6)
- 23 It transports people in Paris or Rome, perhaps around the West End (5)

Solution tomorrow

23 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 238. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATIS.



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The Guardian

Sixth round draw

- Arsenal or Crystal Palace v West Ham or Blackburn Rovers
- Coventry City v Sheffield United
- Leeds United v Wimbledon or Wolverhampton W
- Newcastle United v Manchester United or Barnsley

*Tie to be played on weekend of March 7

Newcastle fear tough home tie

N yesterday's draw for the sixth round of the FA Cup the only tie not resting on the outcome of a replay takes Sheffield United to Highfield Road to meet the in-form Coventry.

The favourites Manchester United will, if they eventually overcome Barnsley, go to Newcastle where they won a Premiership match in December. Newcastle's assistant manager Terry McDermott said: "It's tough whoever we meet. United are the best team in the country and Barnsley are battlers." Arsenal's goalless draw with Crystal Palace means that the winners of the replay at Selhurst Park will be at home to Blackburn or West Ham. Arsenal's manager Arsène Wenger did not feel a home draw would be much of an advantage. "We didn't heat Port Vale here and we didn't beat Crystal Palace here, so in the FA Cup we don't do well at home," he said.

Boycott on run money, sex and violence

Maggie O' reports from Baghdad

Under the shadow of the bomb

Adams fury at

inside